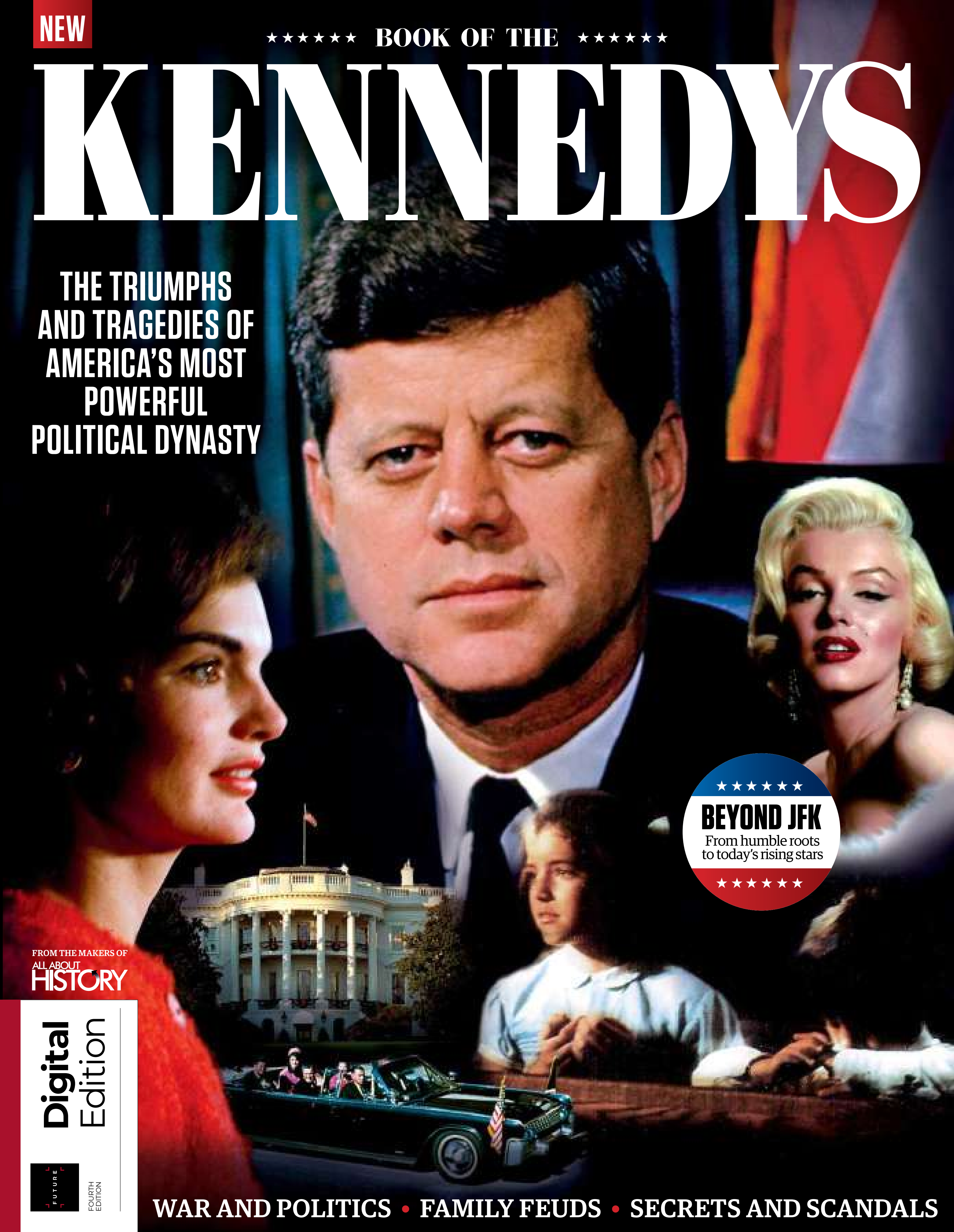
NEW

★★★★★★ BOOK OF THE ★★★★★★

KENNEDYS



THE TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES OF AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL DYNASTY

★★★★★★

BEYOND JFK

From humble roots to today's rising stars

★★★★★★

FROM THE MAKERS OF ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Digital Edition

FUTURE

FOURTH EDITION

WAR AND POLITICS • FAMILY FEUDS • SECRETS AND SCANDALS

★★★★★★ BOOK OF THE ★★★★★★

KENNEDYS

From their humble beginnings in Ireland to their later lives in Boston, America, the Kennedys have fascinated the world over for decades and generations. The marriage of Joseph Kennedy Senior and Rose Fitzgerald was a political union as much as a romantic one, and together they raised what became known as America's royal family. With clear ambitions for their children, Joseph Kennedy Sr focused on the careers of his sons and the marriages of his daughters, with questionable outcomes. From John F Kennedy's presidency to Rosemary's botched lobotomy, step inside the world of one of the most controversial families on the planet. Understand the extent of the so-called 'Kennedy curse' and analyse the scandals that still unravel today. From early family life and the religious challenges the family faced to the triumphs and tragedies both in their political and personal lives, this is the ultimate companion for anyone with an interest in this captivating family.

FUTURE

ALL ABOUT HISTORY

★★★★★★ BOOK OF THE ★★★★★★

KENNEDYS

Future PLC Quay House, The Ambury, Bath, BA1 1UA

Editorial
Compiled by **Aiden Dalby & Briony Duguid**
Senior Art Editor **Andy Downes**
Head of Art & Design **Greg Whitaker**
Editorial Director **Jon White**

Cover images
Getty Images

Photography
All copyrights and trademarks are recognised and respected

Advertising
Media packs are available on request
Commercial Director **Clare Dove**

International
Head of Print Licensing **Rachel Shaw**
licensing@futurenet.com
www.futurecontenthub.com

Circulation
Head of Newstrade **Tim Mathers**

Production
Head of Production **Mark Constance**
Production Project Manager **Matthew Eglinton**
Advertising Production Manager **Joanne Crosby**
Digital Editions Controller **Jason Hudson**
Production Managers **Keely Miller, Nola Cokely,**
Vivienne Calvert, Fran Twentyman

Printed by William Gibbons, 26 Planetary Road,
Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3XT

Distributed by Marketforce, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU
www.marketforce.co.uk Tel: 0203 787 9001

Book of the Kennedys Fourth Edition (AHB4283)
© 2022 Future Publishing Limited

All content previously appeared in
this edition of **Book of the Kennedys**

We are committed to only using magazine paper which is derived from responsibly managed, certified forestry and chlorine-free manufacture. The paper in this bookazine was sourced and produced from sustainable managed forests, conforming to strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. The paper holds full FSC or PEFC certification and accreditation.

All contents © 2022 Future Publishing Limited or published under licence. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used, stored, transmitted or reproduced in any way without the prior written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Quay House, The Ambury, Bath BA1 1UA. All information contained in this publication is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. You are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this publication. Apps and websites mentioned in this publication are not under our control. We are not responsible for their contents or any other changes or updates to them. This magazine is fully independent and not affiliated in any way with the companies mentioned herein.

FUTURE
Connectors.
Creators.
Experience
Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

Chief executive **Zillah Byng-Thorne**
Non-executive chairman **Richard Huntingford**
Chief financial officer **Penny Ladkin-Brand**

Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

Widely Recycled

ipso. For press freedom with responsibility

CONTENTS

EARLY FAMILY LIFE

10 **FAMILY TREE**
UNCOVER THREE GENERATIONS OF THE KENNEDYS AND HOW THEIR LIVES WERE SHAPED BY THEIR HERITAGE

12 **KICK-STARTING THE KENNEDYS**
ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST RENOWNED POLITICAL FAMILIES HAD HUMBLE ORIGINS IN IRELAND AND BOSTON

18 **RAISING A KENNEDY**
HOW TO RAISE A FAMILY DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE WHO CAN HELP RULE THE FREE WORLD

26 **JOSEPH KENNEDY SR: THE PATRIARCH**
JOE SR HAD BIG AMBITIONS FOR HIS CHILDREN, FOCUSING ON THE CAREERS OF HIS SONS AND MARRIAGES OF HIS DAUGHTERS

POLITICS

32 **A POLITICAL DYNASTY**
THE KENNEDYS HAVE BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH AMERICAN POLITICS AS MANY SOUGHT THE NATION'S HIGHEST OFFICE

38 **MAN ON A MISSION**
JOSEPH KENNEDY SENIOR HAD A BIG DREAM – TO SEE A KENNEDY IN THE WHITE HOUSE – AND HE WORKED TIRELESSLY TOWARDS IT

44 **PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY**
AN ICONIC LEADER WHOSE TIME IN OFFICE WAS FRAUGHT WITH COLD WAR TENSION, 'JFK' REMAINS A FASCINATING FIGURE

54 **THE LAST IRISH PURITAN**
ABRASIVE, HARD-HEADED AND DEEPLY IDEALISTIC, BOBBY KENNEDY BECAME ONE OF THE TOUGHEST POLITICIANS IN AMERICA

60 **THE LIBERAL LION OF THE SENATE**
SERVING AS SENATOR FOR 47 YEARS, TED KENNEDY HAD AN EVENTFUL CAREER IN POLITICS

TRIUMPHS & TRAGEDIES

68 THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE KENNEDY LEGACY
THROUGH EVENTS THAT SENSATIONALISED THE KENNEDY NAME, THEIR LEGACY REMAINS AT THE HEART OF AMERICAN HISTORY

74 THE KENNEDY SHOOTING STAR
KATHLEEN 'KICK' KENNEDY WAS HEADSTRONG, VIVACIOUS AND GONE TOO SOON AT THE AGE OF JUST 28

80 THE HIDDEN KENNEDY
THE TRAGIC LIFE OF ROSEMARY KENNEDY, WHICH INSPIRED CHANGES IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS MENTAL DISABILITIES

86 A DARK DAY IN DALLAS
THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY SHOCKED THE WORLD AND WENT DOWN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

94 THE MOST VULNERABLE OF THE KENNEDYS
THE KENNEDY DYNASTY HAD MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF BOTH TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY, AND BOBBY WAS NO EXCEPTION

98 THE SOCIAL REFORMER
HOW TED, THE YOUNGEST KENNEDY SIBLING, ACHIEVED SO MUCH YET BECAME SUCH A DIVISIVE FIGURE

104 GRACE AMID TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY
JACQUELINE KENNEDY BROUGHT ELEGANCE TO THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE EXPANDING THE ROLE OF THE FIRST LADY

SCANDALS

114 SECRETS AND SCANDALS
THE KENNEDYS GAINED THE STATUS THEY CRAVED – AND THE PUBLIC EXPOSURE TO GO WITH IT

120 AFFAIRS OF STATE
JFK NEVER ALLOWED POTENTIAL SCANDAL OR REPUTATIONAL RISK TO DISSUADE HIM FROM HIS INSATIABLE SEXUAL APPETITE

124 MARILYN MONROE AND THE KENNEDYS
RUMOUR AND SPECULATION SHROUD THE RELATIONSHIP OF JOHN AND ROBERT KENNEDY WITH MARILYN MONROE AND HER DEATH

130 THE CHAPPAQUIDDICK INCIDENT
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON THE SHORES OF CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND ON A PITCH-BLACK SUMMER NIGHT?

134 WHO REALLY KILLED JFK?
WHY THE MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE SURROUNDING THE JFK ASSASSINATION SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING

140 THE KENNEDY FAMILY'S LASTING LEGACY
THE KENNEDYS DEFINE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ALTRUISM WHILE THE WORLD REMAINS CAPTIVATED BY THEIR PERSONAL LIVES

10

EARLY FAMILY LIFE

From their Irish roots to Joseph and Rose Kennedy's nine children

10 FAMILY TREE
UNCOVER THREE GENERATIONS OF THE KENNEDYS AND HOW THEIR LIVES WERE SHAPED BY THEIR HERITAGE

12 KICK-STARTING THE KENNEDYS
ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST RENOWNED POLITICAL FAMILIES HAD HUMBLE ORIGINS IN IRELAND AND BOSTON

18 RAISING A KENNEDY
HOW TO RAISE A FAMILY DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE WHO CAN HELP RULE THE FREE WORLD

26 JOSEPH KENNEDY SR: THE PATRIARCH
JOE SR HAD BIG AMBITIONS FOR HIS CHILDREN, FOCUSING ON THE CAREERS OF HIS SONS AND MARRIAGES OF HIS DAUGHTERS

12

18

PALM BEACH
OCT.31
PAN

26

FAMILY TREE

UNCOVER THREE GENERATIONS OF THE KENNEDYS AND HOW THEIR LIVES WERE SHAPED BY THEIR HERITAGE

ROSE ELIZABETH FITZGERALD
1890-1995

JOSEPH PATRICK KENNEDY SR
1888-1969

JOSEPH PATRICK KENNEDY JR
1915-1944
The first child of Rose and Joe, Joe Jr had always been pegged as the member of the family who would go into politics. However, his dreams were cut short when he died while taking part in Operation Aphrodite, a plan to fly bombs into enemy territory, when his plane exploded in 1944.

ROSE MARIE 'ROSEMARY' KENNEDY
1918-2005

KATHLEEN AGNES KENNEDY
1920-1948
'Kick' Kennedy was somewhat of a black sheep in her Catholic family – she married an English Protestant, Lord William Cavendish, heir to the duchy of Devonshire, one of the UK's most eligible bachelors. However, she was widowed within months of their wedding in 1944. She would die herself in a plane crash four years later along with her married lover.

WILLIAM CAVENDISH, MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON
1917-1944

EUNICE MARY KENNEDY
1921-2009
Eunice served in the Special War Problems Division of the Department of State, then in the Department of Justice before becoming a social worker at a women's prison. In 1962, she began a day camp for children with mental difficulties, which evolved into the Special Olympics that helped the disabled reach their sporting potential.

ROBERT SERGENT SHRIVER
1915-2011

JACQUELINE LEE 'JACKIE' BOUVIER
1929-1994

JOHN FITZGERALD 'JACK' KENNEDY
1917-1963

ROBERT SARGENT SHRIVER III
BORN 1954

MARIA OWINGS SHRIVER
BORN 1955
Maria made a name for herself in her own right as a news anchor, receiving a Peabody Award and co-anchoring NBC's Emmy award-winning coverage of the 1988 Olympic Games. She married Arnold Schwarzenegger in 1986 and subsequently became the first lady of California during her husband's tenure as governor.

TIMOTHY PERRY SHRIVER
BORN 1959

MARK KENNEDY SHRIVER
BORN 1964

ANTHONY PAUL KENNEDY SHRIVER
BORN 1965

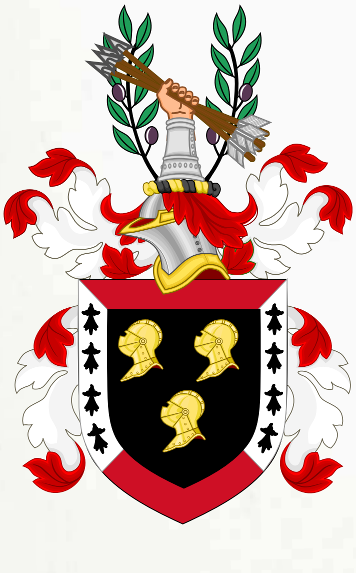
CAROLINE BOUVIER KENNEDY
BORN 1957

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY JR
1960-1999

PATRICK BOUVIER KENNEDY
1963-1963
The first baby to be born to a sitting president and first lady since the 19th century, Patrick's life was to be tragically cut short. Born five and a half weeks early, doctors fought to help him breathe as his tiny lungs couldn't cope, but he died at just 39 hours old from respiratory distress syndrome. He would be John and Jackie Kennedy's last child.

CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY LAWFORD
1955-2018

SYDNEY MALEIA LAWFORD
BORN 1956



KATHLEEN HARTINGTON KENNEDY
BORN 1951
Kathleen has carried on the Kennedy name in politics through her role as lieutenant governor of Maryland from 1995 to 2003. More recently, she has become the chair of American Bridge, a non-profit organisation raising funds for Democratic candidates and causes.

JOSEPH PATRICK KENNEDY II
BORN 1952

ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY JR
BORN 1954

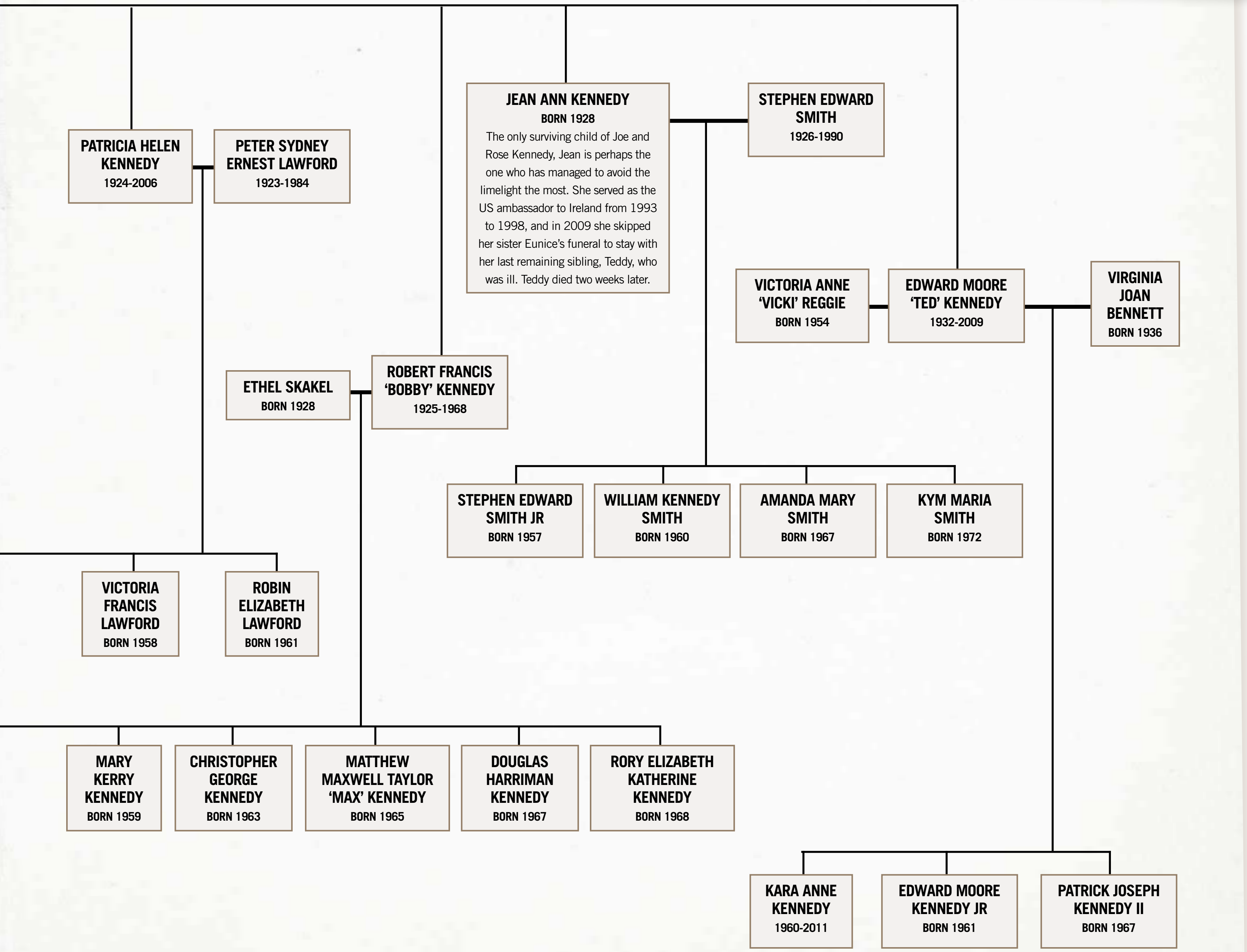
DAVID ANTHONY KENNEDY
1955-1984

MARY COURTNEY KENNEDY
BORN 1956

MICHAEL LEMOYNE KENNEDY
1958-1997

© Getty Images

The Kennedy family continues to grow in size, with some members remaining in politics today



PATRICIA HELEN KENNEDY
1924-2006

PETER SYDNEY ERNEST LAWFORD
1923-1984

JEAN ANN KENNEDY
BORN 1928
The only surviving child of Joe and Rose Kennedy, Jean is perhaps the one who has managed to avoid the limelight the most. She served as the US ambassador to Ireland from 1993 to 1998, and in 2009 she skipped her sister Eunice's funeral to stay with her last remaining sibling, Teddy, who was ill. Teddy died two weeks later.

STEPHEN EDWARD SMITH
1926-1990

VICTORIA ANNE 'VICKI' REGGIE
BORN 1954

EDWARD MOORE 'TED' KENNEDY
1932-2009

VIRGINIA JOAN BENNETT
BORN 1936

ETHEL SKAKEL
BORN 1928

ROBERT FRANCIS 'BOBBY' KENNEDY
1925-1968

STEPHEN EDWARD SMITH JR
BORN 1957

WILLIAM KENNEDY SMITH
BORN 1960

AMANDA MARY SMITH
BORN 1967

KYM MARIA SMITH
BORN 1972

VICTORIA FRANCIS LAWFORD
BORN 1958

ROBIN ELIZABETH LAWFORD
BORN 1961

MARY KERRY KENNEDY
BORN 1959

CHRISTOPHER GEORGE KENNEDY
BORN 1963

MATTHEW MAXWELL TAYLOR 'MAX' KENNEDY
BORN 1965

DOUGLAS HARRIMAN KENNEDY
BORN 1967

RORY ELIZABETH KATHERINE KENNEDY
BORN 1968

KARA ANNE KENNEDY
1960-2011

EDWARD MOORE KENNEDY JR
BORN 1961

PATRICK JOSEPH KENNEDY II
BORN 1967

KICK-STARTING THE KENNEDYS

RISING TO PROMINENCE IN THE 20TH CENTURY, ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST RENOWNED POLITICAL FAMILIES HAD HUMBLE ORIGINS IN IRELAND AND BOSTON

Every dynasty has to start somewhere, and for the Kennedys, it was in Ireland. When the country's Great Famine drove citizens over the Atlantic Ocean to the United States, it set in motion a series of events that would result in one of America's most influential families.

Joseph Patrick Kennedy Senior, best known to most as Joe, was the grandson of two Irish people who had emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, to escape the starvation. Born on 6 September 1888, he was the son of Mary Hickety and Patrick 'PJ' Kennedy, a prominent figure in Boston's Irish community. Patrick had risen from a common labourer to a highly successful businessman, organising two different financial institutions in the city: the Columbia Trust Company and the Sumner Savings Bank.

Mary instilled in her son a sense of ambition. She wanted the best for him, and in late 19th-century Boston, a city dominated by American Protestants, she tried to give him every advantage possible. One example of this was not naming Joe after his father, instead making Patrick his middle name. The Irish Catholics were looked down upon, marginalised and hardly ever given the same advantages as the natives. But as far as Mary was concerned, the Kennedys were local now.

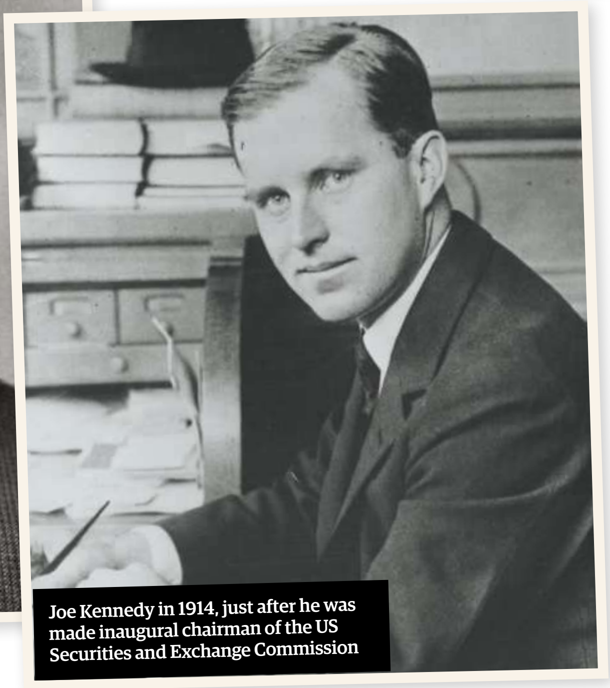
Having said that, as a result of his Irish heritage, Joe attended Catholic schools up until the seventh grade, attaining pretty average grades across the board - certainly nothing extraordinary. Nonetheless, it couldn't be denied that he was growing up the pampered son of a powerful and respected East Boston politician and businessman. At this point it didn't matter that he was an Irish Catholic - he was in a privileged position due to his father's exploits.

For the eighth grade, Joe keyed in to the privilege that his father had provided him with, and began attending the prestigious Boston Latin School, the same college preparatory academy that Benjamin Franklin had entered in

PUBLIC BATH HOUSE.
NEW PUBLIC BATH HOUSE

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, where Rose and Joe met as children and later as teenagers. It was here that they would realise their teenage crushes on each other - the catalyst for the creation of the family that dominates politics today

Patrick 'PJ' Kennedy was a prominent figure in Boston's Irish community and the rival of Honey Fitz



Joe Kennedy in 1914, just after he was made inaugural chairman of the US Securities and Exchange Commission

FIRST COMES LOVE

THE IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN A DYNASTY-STARTING ROMANCE

6 September 1888

The first Joseph Kennedy

Joe is born in Massachusetts to second-generation Irish immigrants. He is the first in his family to bear his name. As time progressed, there would be two more Joseph P Kennedys in the family.

22 July 1890

Birth of a matriarch

Rose Elizabeth Fitzgerald is born at 4 Garden Court in North End, Boston, Massachusetts, the eldest of six children. Her siblings were called Mary Agnes, Thomas, John Jr, Eunice and Frederick.

1906

A girl's graduation

Rose graduates from Dorchester High School near the top of her class, and is voted 'most beautiful'. On graduation day, her father, the new mayor, hands her diploma to her, and their beaming faces front the newspapers the next day.

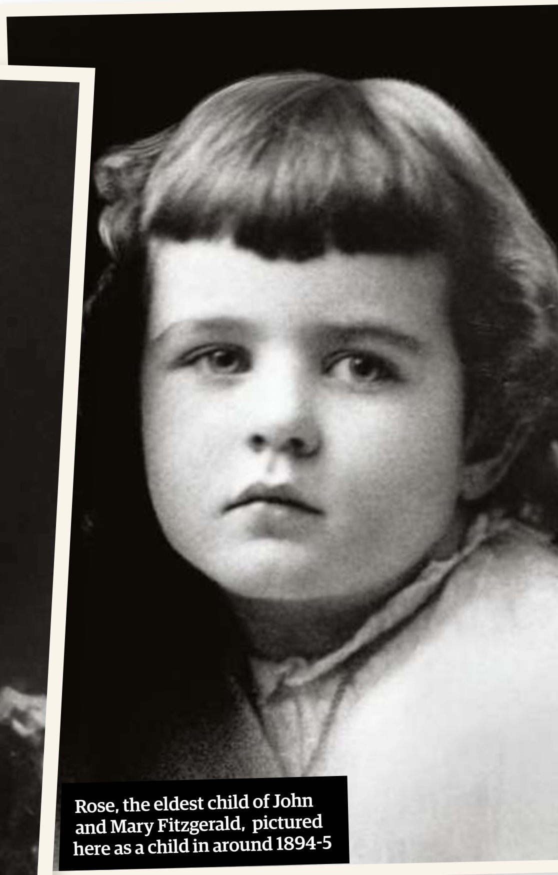
1908

Boston Latin

Joe graduates from Boston Latin School with mediocre grades. After arguing about it with his father, he enrols at Harvard University, a secular college, and graduates in 1912.

John Francis 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald, Rose's father and a beloved mayor of Boston

Mary Hannon Fitzgerald, Rose's mother, would go on to give birth to five more children after her first daughter



Rose, the eldest child of John and Mary Fitzgerald, pictured here as a child in around 1894-5

1714. While he had an aptitude for mathematics, Joe's grades at the elite college remained somewhat mediocre.

However, he spent his time there bolstering his social skills, and was popular among students and teachers alike, becoming class president in his final year there. The young Kennedy was named by his senior class as the member who would eventually earn his fortune 'in a roundabout way' - if only they knew just how quickly he would be able to amass his wealth. Joe also became a colonel in the school's Cadet Corps, and began to play baseball, something he could finally prove to be more than average at, with his batting average of .667.

After graduating in 1908, there was some heated debate with his father as to where he would continue his education. As his father was a Catholic politician, Joe was expected to attend the new Boston College, mainly to make a show of looking down on Harvard University's secular attitudes. But Joe wasn't having any of it. Wanting nothing but the best, and aspiring to the very pinnacle of American life, he began attending Harvard in autumn 1908.

At Harvard, Joe imitated the way others dressed, along with their eating styles, conversation, accents, mannerisms and social attitudes. But the whole time, he was very careful not to betray his Irish roots. He even set out to join a club - what we would call a fraternity today - but in this endeavour he would find himself to be largely unsuccessful. An invitation to join clubs had to be extended from current members, and while Joe was never given one, his roommate was. Left out because he was an Irish Catholic, the memory would prove to be bitter for years to come.

One of Joe's main goals at university was to counter what the Americans thought of the Irish. To break the stereotypes, he made sure that he was on his best behaviour at all times, and even refrained from drinking any alcohol - something that he would later try to pass down to his children with varying degrees of success.

To an extent this worked. He was finally able to join the finance committee of the Freshman Smoker, and was one of 15 ushers for a class dinner. Furthermore, despite the fact that he was unable to play football, Harvard's elite sport, due to his heritage, he did manage to befriend members of the team, as well as prove his prowess at baseball. In fact, it was his talent in the sport that led to him being permitted to join one of the

> "Joe imitated the way others dressed, along with their eating styles, accents, mannerisms and social attitudes"

1908

A trip abroad
Honey Fitz takes his wife and two oldest daughters to Europe, partly to put an ocean between Rose and Joe. It doesn't work - Rose returns to Boston still enamoured.

1908-12

Under wraps
The couple embark on their secret relationship, making sure that Honey Fitz doesn't find out. Their love for each other grows as they meet around Boston.

2 January 1911

The debutante
Rose is presented to society, and her father introduces her to Hugh Nawn. However, Rose has decided that she will be with no one but Joe Kennedy.

Autumn 1912

First job
Joe gets his first job as assistant state bank examiner for Massachusetts, the first step in what will become a prolific banking career.

7 October 1914

A Catholic marriage
Joe and Rose marry in the archbishop of Boston's private chapel. After a honeymoon in White Sulphur Springs, they move into a three-story house in Brookline, Massachusetts. At the time, Joe was making $10,000 a year.

university's lesser clubs, Delta Kappa Epsilon, in his final year.

Joe's average grades came back to bite him when he tried to petition Harvard to let him leave halfway through his final year. However, he did graduate at the end of the final semester with a degree in music appreciation, the only major he was able to get. But he was more than ready to leave and get on with the next stage of his life.

The young Kennedy knew soon after graduating that he would need a wife, but he refused to marry a Protestant. His partner would be a Roman Catholic and he knew exactly who he wanted to ask: Rose Fitzgerald.

The two had met briefly on holiday at Old Orchard Beach in Maine when Joe was ten years old and Rose just eight years old, but it was a meeting that neither remembered. However, Rose was everywhere Joe looked in Boston – after all, she was the daughter of one of the city's most loved mayors.

Born in Boston's North End on 22 July 1890, Rose was the eldest of John and Mary Fitzgerald's six children. As their surname may suggest, they were also a family of Irish Catholic immigrants. John Fitzgerald thrived in Boston, though, kickstarting his career as a prominent Democratic politician when he was elected as a Congressman when Rose was just five. In fact, by the time Rose was 15, her father had become one of Boston's most popular and colourful mayors, known to many as 'Honey Fitz'.

> "His partner would be a Catholic, and he knew exactly who he wanted"

As a child, Rose was taken to the White House with her sister, Agnes, by her father to see President McKinley. The president had told Agnes: "You're the prettiest girl who has entered the house." Rose, years later, remarked: "I knew right then that I would have to work hard to do something about myself." And that's what she did.

Rose had a childhood that most could only dream of, attending private schools and debutante balls. She filled the time in between with summer holidays to Cape Cod, winter excursions to Florida's Palm Beach, and trips to Europe and Asia, while fending off a host of well-to-do suitors.

After Honey Fitz's election to the House of Representatives in 1895, Rose accompanied her father to dedications, parades, banquets and political rallies in the place of her mother. It was here that she learned the balance of making her life seem intriguing to voters, while also depicting herself as being approachable and empathetic – a skill that would help her when her own children were grown and seeking public offices.

Rose's educational career was starkly different to her future husband's from the start. She attended Edward Everett Grammar School before spending a year at Concord High School. In 1901, Honey Fitz left Congress when Boston's Democratic bosses – including PJ Kennedy, Joe's father – blocked his renomination. He moved his family to Dorchester's Ashmont Hill in 1903, and Rose began attending Dorchester High School, graduating with honours at the age of 15. Her face was splashed over the front covers of every local newspaper as her beaming, proud father, then the mayor, handed her diploma to her.

However, when it came to college, Rose and Honey Fitz had two very different ideas. Rose had completed high school through a three-year

At her mother's insistence, Rose often accompanied her father to political events and rallies, leading her to become a master at campaigning

Dorchester High School, where Rose studied in her youth

Mary Fitzgerald with her three daughters all grown up: Mary Agnes, Eunice and, of course, Rose

course before taking a year of preparatory courses to prepare for further education. She had been accepted into and was hoping to attend Wellesley College, the premier women's institution of the day, but her father vetoed the idea. There are two theories as to why.

The first is that he simply thought his daughter to be too young to be going off to college. The second, and perhaps more likely, is that Boston's archbishop convinced him that it would look bad for the Irish Catholic mayor's daughter to attend a secular university. Instead, Rose was to find herself at the Sacred Heart Convent in downtown Boston, a staunchly Catholic institution. Despite her opposition, Rose made the best of her situation, and even took some piano lessons at the nearby New England Conservatory of Music. She was then sent to Blumenthal Academy, a finishing school in the Netherlands, with her sister, Agnes, where the girls learned to speak French and German.

In 1908, Honey Fitz lost the race for the Boston mayor's office amid charges of cronyism and administrative incompetence. To take his mind off things, he took his wife and his two oldest daughters - Rose and Agnes - to Europe for what Rose thought was a brief holiday. But Honey Fitz had ulterior motives - the trip was to put an entire ocean between Rose and Joe Kennedy.

Years after their first meeting, Rose had met Joe once again in Maine when they were teenagers, and that was when the sparks began to fly. In fact, part of the reason that Rose had been sent to the Netherlands and spent two years in Europe thereafter was to keep her away from Joe. While Joe Kennedy came from a line of Irish Catholics, his father was Honey Fitz's rival.

The family returned from their European excursion when Joe still had three years left at Harvard, but Rose was nowhere near letting going of her romantic feelings for the Kennedy.

The 100th anniversary of Rose Kennedy's Ace of Clubs

THE ACE OF CLUBS

ROSE FITZGERALD'S ANSWER TO THE OSTRACISATION OF IRISH CATHOLIC WOMEN IN BOSTON

In 1910, Rose Fitzgerald was irritated – because of her heritage and religion, she was unable to join any of Boston's prestigious women's clubs, despite the fact that her father was the mayor. So she set about to change that with a close friend, Miriam Finnegan.

Rose set up the Lenox Club, later renamed the Ace of Clubs, for unmarried Catholic women in Boston who hadn't travelled abroad. Its aim was to stimulate minds through guest lecturers and raise money for charities.

Women were able to expand their social, cultural and intellectual bounds through balls, fundraisers, art auctions and other activities. Some of the charities supported by the Ace of Clubs were the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the American Diabetes Association and, at a later stage, the John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

At its peak, during John F Kennedy's presidency, the club attracted elites from all over Massachusetts. In fact, women were signing their daughters up when they were just born so that they could secure a place.

In November 2010, almost 16 years after Rose's death, the Boston club celebrated its 100th anniversary. Its primary aim now is raising money for charity, something that hasn't changed in importance since its beginning. As Suzanne Powell, a club president in the 1970s, said: "It gave something to people. It wasn't like some silly ladies sitting around and talking about what dress they were going to buy this week. It had a meaning to it. It was to help someone in need."

© Old Paper Studios / Paul Fearn / Alamy / Getty images

She spent a year in a New York convent and was beginning to learn how Irish Catholics were being marginalised in New England.

Unable to join any of the Protestant clubs due to heritage and Catholicism, Rose decided to make her own in 1910. The Lenox Club, as it was called at the beginning, was for other Catholic women, and Rose became its first president. She later changed its name to the Ace of Clubs because, as she would strive to do with everything in her life, she believed she had made the best club.

In 1910, Honey Fitz was finally reelected to the mayor's office of Boston. Things were looking up for the Fitzgeralds, and it was time to start preparing for Rose's presentation to society. Debutantes were coming of age all over the city, but none could compare to Rose Fitzgerald and the festivities that were being arranged.

On 2 January 1911, a reception and tea was held at the family home, with Rose customarily hosting. Over three hours, she received hundreds of guests including Massachusetts' governor-elect, two congressmen and Boston's entire city council, which had taken the day off at the mayor's suggestion. Even Sir Thomas Lipton, a self-made British businessman deemed the world's most eligible bachelor at the time, sent a telegram reading: 'I extend my congratulations to you on the occasion of your coming-out. I suppose that in a short time I will be sending congratulations for another occasion of great joy. Before that occurs I hope that you pick out a man who is the equal of your father'.

Despite all the possible suitors, Rose knew exactly who she wanted, and she was sure that he was Honey Fitz's equal - even if Honey Fitz didn't agree. In fact, Joe attended her debut, but Honey Fitz had invited another suitor in an attempt to change his daughter's mind: Hugh Nawn.

The Boston Public Library, where Rose and Joe had some clandestine meetings away from prying eyes
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON BUILT BY THE PEOPLE AND DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING
FIGHTING THE FIRES OF HATE
NO TURN ON RED

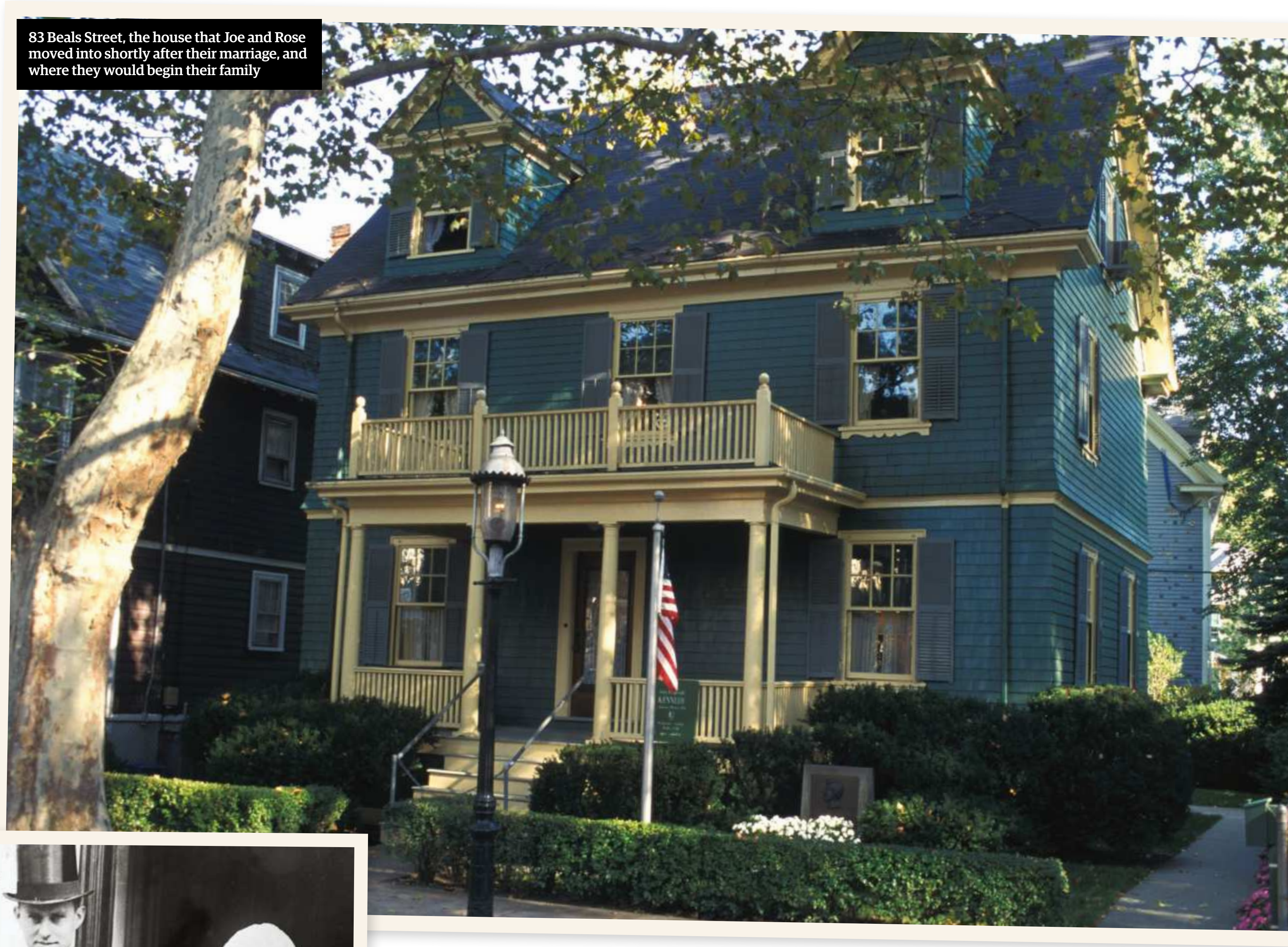
A CLANDESTINE ROMANCE

SNEAKING AROUND BEHIND THE MAYOR'S BACK IN HIS OWN CITY

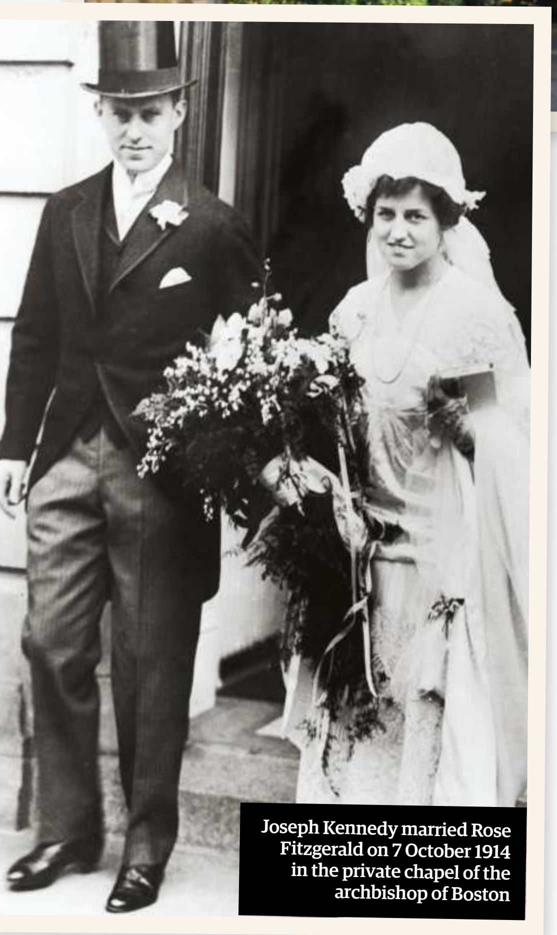
After Rose and Joe's second meeting on the beach – the one where the romance began – young Joe Kennedy was absolutely besotted. As a result, he asked Rose if she would attend a dance with him at Boston Latin School.

Rose was delighted and poised to agree – why would her father say no? Here was a teenager ready to make something of himself and attending the same school that Honey Fitz had. Nevertheless, Boston's mayor said no. But that wasn't going to stop Joe and Rose from having some fun together. Knowing of Honey Fitz's disapproval, they met secretly at other dances in the city and at their schools, at friends' parties and even at the Boston Public Library.

In time, Honey Fitz would come round to their relationship, but he never found out about the secret courting that was done behind his back. He would always think of Joe as too brash, and anyway, he was the son of his political rival, PJ Kennedy! But he couldn't deny that the match would lead to great things – including his grandson sitting in the White House.



83 Beals Street, the house that Joe and Rose moved into shortly after their marriage, and where they would begin their family



Joseph Kennedy married Rose Fitzgerald on 7 October 1914 in the private chapel of the archbishop of Boston

“They ignored Honey Fitz’s disapproval, and Joe continued to court Rose”

For all intents and purposes, Hugh would have been a perfect match for Rose. He had graduated in Harvard’s class of 1910, and was part of a well-to-do neighbouring family. His father was the boss of Boston’s most successful Catholic contracting business, and when Rose later spoke of him, she admitted: “He was one of my beaux and he was nice and I would have married him. He did have a car, and he did have a business to go into.” But at the end of the day, he didn’t have Joe’s charisma.

The couple ignored Honey Fitz’s disapproval, and Joe continued to court Rose as he began his first job on Boston’s banking scene as an assistant state bank examiner for Massachusetts, the only job he seemed to be able to secure thanks to his Irish heritage. However, he was soon able to boast that he was one of the youngest-ever bank managers in the United States. In 1914, Joe finally got down on one knee on the pavement outside Rose’s family home with a two-carat diamond ring that he’d purchased from one of his old Harvard classmates for a discounted price. To his delight, the young woman who had been voted most beautiful in her graduating high school class said yes. She had made it abundantly clear to her father that she wouldn’t say yes to anyone else.

On 7 October 1914, the two married in the private chapel of the archbishop of Boston, Cardinal William O’Connell, who conducted the ceremony. After a honeymoon in White Sulphur Springs, they settled in a seven-bedroom, white-framed house in Brookline, ready to build their lives together.

RAISING A KENNEDY

HOW TO RAISE A FAMILY DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE WHO CAN HELP RULE THE FREE WORLD

The Kennedy family house at 83 Beals Street in Brookline, Massachusetts, wasn't destined to be empty for long. In fact, almost as soon as Joe and Rose moved into it after their honeymoon, Rose fell pregnant with her first child. Nine months later, on 25 July 1915, a boy was born with ten little fingers and ten little toes in the Kennedys' summer house in Hull, Massachusetts. He was named after his father – Joseph Patrick Kennedy Jr – and so the Kennedy dynasty began.

Brookline was the perfect neighbourhood for the Kennedys to raise their family. Away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Boston, it would provide more opportunities for the children to play safely outside. And, as time went on, Joe Jr would have more and more siblings to play outdoors with.

Less than a year later, he had a little brother. Born on 29 May 1917 in an upstairs bedroom of the Brookline house, a blue-eyed John Fitzgerald Kennedy came into the world, soon to be nicknamed 'Jack'. This son was named after his grandfather, Rose's father, but his early years were plagued with sickness. He suffered from whooping cough, measles and chicken pox among other illnesses.

The following year, the first girl arrived in the family. Rose Marie, best known as Rosemary, was born on 13 September 1918 – but her birth didn't go as smoothly as her brothers'. When Rose went into labour, the doctor wasn't immediately available, so the nurse attending to her forced her to keep her legs closed to keep little Rosemary inside until the doctor's arrival. Poor Rosemary suffered a harmful lack of oxygen – something that would affect her until the day she died.

Rose noted her daughter's developmental delays as Rosemary grew up. To start with, she was slower to crawl, walk and speak than Joe Jr and Jack. She would always prove to be slower than her siblings, but nonetheless was a sweet-natured, insecure child, always desperate to please her parents.

In 1920, change was afoot for the family. With the birth of another girl – Kathleen Agnes Kennedy – at the family house in Brookline, Joe Sr decided that the Kennedys had outgrown their house and sold it to his advisor, Edward Moore. The Kennedys themselves moved to a house just a few blocks away to a larger house on Abbottsford Road. It was here that the next three of the Kennedy brood were born – Eunice Mary,

Jack (centre) messing around with two friends from Choate. He wasn't known for being the most serious of students, and co-founded the Muckers' Club

Some members of the family pose for a picture in London in 1938, having moved there when Joe Sr was appointed the American ambassador to the United Kingdom. From left to right: Kick, Joe Sr, Rose, Patricia, Jean and Bobby. Little Ted stands in front

Eunice and Rosemary disembarking the SS Manhattan that had carried them from New York to London in 1938

Patricia Helen and Robert Francis (better known as 'Bobby'), in 1921, 1924 and 1925 respectively.

But 1920 wasn't necessarily a happy year for the Kennedys. On 20 February, Jack contracted scarlet fever, then a life-threatening disease that was highly contagious. He was admitted to the local hospital, and his father made sure that he visited every day, sitting at his son's bedside and even requesting that Jack be read his last rites. However, just over a month later, he took a turn for the better. The worst was out of the way.

As the family settled in to life on Abbottsford Road, the children began to grow up and show their own traits. A rivalry seemed to open up between Joe Jr and Jack, as the latter was the only sibling to pose any real threat to Joe's dominant position as the oldest child. The two didn't always see eye to eye, with Joe Jr becoming somewhat of a bully at times, picking on his smaller and physically weaker younger brother.

Joe Sr encouraged any and all competition between his children – how else would they stretch and better themselves? It was he who would take charge of organising the boys' educations and ensuring they were the best they could be. Rose, on the other hand, took the lead in the children's spiritual upbringings, while nannies and housekeepers helped her to run the household.

> "A rivalry seemed to open up between Joe Jr and Jack, as the latter was the only sibling to pose any real threat"

Rose looked on child rearing as a sort of profession and her calling, bearing seven children in ten years with two more following over the next seven years. While Rose carried the children, the nannies did the daily nappy washings and prepared the formula. Having said that, she wasn't opposed to disciplining her growing brood. In fact, she later wrote: 'When the children needed to be spanked, I often used a ruler, and sometimes a coat hanger, which was often more convenient'. It's probably worth pointing out here that in the 1920s, spankings were somewhat commonplace.

1927 saw the biggest change so far for the Kennedy children. Thanks to their father's success and growing fortune, it was time for the family to relocate to the Bronx in New York City. 5040 Independence Avenue was to be their new home, a 20-room, three-storey stucco mansion with

Kathleen, Rose and Rosemary Kennedy after the girls' debuts at Buckingham Palace in 1938. Kick was said to be the debutante of the year plenty of room for the boys to do athletics. The next year saw two new arrivals to the family. The first was Jean Ann Kennedy, the eighth child and fifth daughter of Rose and Joe, who was born on 20 February in Boston. The second was the purchase of a summer cottage at Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. It was here that the Kennedy children would enjoy their summer holidays, and where Jack would headquarter his presidential campaign in the 1950s.

The summer house was right on the shore of Cape Cod, and the family had fun swimming, sailing and playing touch football, enjoying each other's company. Joe Jr and Jack would each have a room on the ground floor, while the others constantly switched rooms on the first and second floors. It was at Hyannis Port that the children could be free. Even Rosemary, who often struggled to keep up with her siblings, looked forward to her summers there. During the family's boat races, she'd be part of one of the crews, doing exactly what she was told. More than anything, she loved being in the winning boat - her smile would light up her face.

Rosemary's childhood wasn't all bad. Despite her disabilities and the experimental injections her parents put her through, she used to take part in all the family activities, and her mother played piano and sang to her. She was also a fan of compliments - any time a sister told her that she was pretty, she would smile for hours.

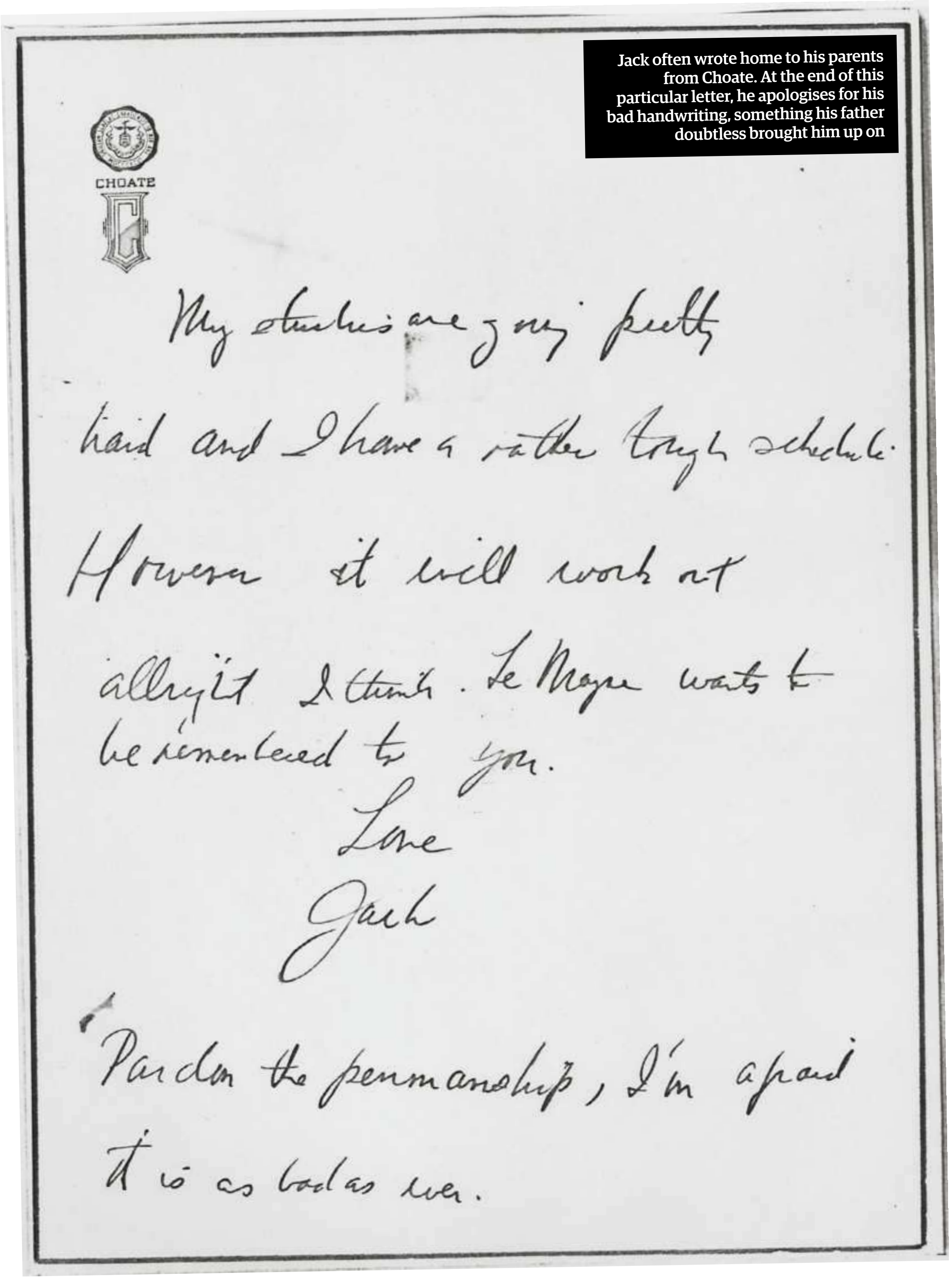
TAKING NOTES

KEEPING TRACK OF NINE BUSY CHILDREN IS NO MEAN FEAT

With so many kids running around the place, how do you keep track of them all? Rose Kennedy had a system. So that she could easily look back to see which children had had which inoculations and illnesses, or in case she forgot someone's shoe size, she wrote everything down on notecards – one for each of her offspring. On Jack's, she recorded his various illnesses. Every time he came down with whooping cough, the measles or chickenpox, a note was made.

When each child was born, Rose would record the baby's name, date and place of birth, and their weight. She would then weigh them again every week as they grew, giving them more nourishment if the numbers appeared to be going down – perhaps some extra glasses of milk.

She even brought the card system with her when the family moved to the United Kingdom in 1938, and showed it off to some of the British reporters. When they marvelled at what they assumed was just American efficiency, Rose recalled: "I just said it was Kennedy desperation because I couldn't possibly keep track of all of them."



Jack often wrote home to his parents from Choate. At the end of this particular letter, he apologises for his bad handwriting, something his father doubtless brought him up on

CHOATE

My studies are going pretty hard and I have a rather tough schedule. However it will work out allright I think. Le Moyne wants to be remembered to you.

Love

Jack

Pardon the penmanship, I'm afraid it is as bad as ever.

In 1929, aged 11, Rosemary's father finally decided that it was time she be sent to boarding school. Having had tutors and switching schools every few years due to her mood swings and teachers' inabilities to deal with her disabilities, she was sent to a boarding school in Pennsylvania for intellectually challenged students. While she struggled a little in this new environment, Rosemary still wrote home to her parents. Her letters were littered with spelling mistakes and lopsided sentence structures, but she never stopped expressing her joy, and appearing poised and sociable both in text and in person. It was impossible not to like Rosemary Kennedy.

> "It was impossible not to like Rosemary"

Jack Kennedy pulls two of his sisters along in a wagon, while Joe Jr sits on the ground in front

1929 also saw Joe Jr leave home for boarding school. The firstborn attended Choate, a boarding school in Connecticut, where boys received a solid, all-round education with the sons of America's most powerful men. He would write to his parents separately every Sunday. To his father, he detailed his good grades and football games. His mother would read about his church attendance.

Jack was still at the prestigious Noble and Greenough Lower School that he had attended with his older brother, but was eager to attend Choate with Joe Jr. Instead, at the insistence of Rose, he was sent to the Canterbury School in New Milford, Connecticut, where a Roman Catholic priest was in charge. In 1932, Jack eventually got his wish.

Jack was always a troublemaker, pulling pranks around the house. This didn't change when he went to school. In fact, at Choate he was more interested in his social reputation than his work, upholding a C+ average while co-founding the Muckers' Club with some of his friends. He had many friends at school, and played basketball, football and golf while also enjoying reading books and his daily *New York Times* subscription. When he left Choate, he graduated 64th out of a class of 112.

The girls had a very different education. Kathleen - or 'Kick', as she was commonly known - Eunice, Patricia and later Jean would all attend Sacred Heart schools in New England before being sent to spend a year or two in European convents. Perhaps because they weren't pushed as much as the boys, Patricia had a lack of ambition that irked her mother. She was a good student, especially in maths, and an accomplished athlete, but she was never really competitive. Instead, she was often considered the most beautiful and sophisticated of the sisters.

Kick, meanwhile, was a vivacious and quick-witted girl who didn't see why her brothers were encouraged to be red-blooded men while the sisters were expected to be chaste. While not conventionally beautiful for the time, men were captivated by her vivacity and intelligence, while women loved her wit and warmth.

GROWING UP CATHOLIC

RELIGION WAS ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS IN THE KENNEDY HOUSEHOLD

While Joe Sr took charge of his children's education, Rose took it upon herself to see that all nine of them were brought up as good Catholics. Their first house in Brookline, Massachusetts, was right on the doorstep of St Aidan's Church, and all the girls were educated at convents and Sacred Heart schools in both the United Kingdom and the United States.

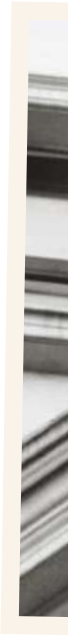
Rose even went so far as to send some of her daughters to convents in Europe. Kick, for example, spent a year or so in a French convent as a teenager. While she was sent against her wishes and was thoroughly homesick, she never let on to her parents – a true mark of Kennedy stoicism.

It wasn't just the girls who had a religious education, either. Joe Jr spent some time as an altar boy, and Jack was originally sent to the Canterbury School instead of his preferred choice of Choate, as a Roman Catholic priest was in charge. Furthermore, the gospel was often hotly debated around the dinner table on a Sunday, as opposed to the politics that featured throughout the rest of the week.

Rose made sure that her children were brought up Catholic in what was then a truly Protestant world. After all, it was something that ran in their Irish blood, and the Kennedys were never ones to disregard their heritage.

The Kennedys' main house at Hyannis Port. It was where the children spent most of the summers if they weren't abroad staying in convents

Joe Sr teaches his children to ski at Saint Moritz, Switzerland, in 1938. Most of his children were avid athletes and enjoyed sports



Kick never wanted for attention, and was often considered the 'psychological twin' of Jack. In fact, some have argued that she was Joe Sr's favourite child - he even said of her that "all my ducks are swans, but Kick was especially special." She was exactly what Joe Sr thought a girl should be: competitive and fearless. At the famous Kennedy dinner-table discussions - about politics during the week and gospel on Sundays - she would participate enthusiastically after a day of competing with Joe Jr and Jack at sailing, swimming, touch football and baseball.

The ninth and final Kennedy child would have a slightly different upbringing. Born on 22 February 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, Edward Moore 'Ted' Kennedy would enjoy a closer relationship with his parents than the rest of his siblings did. He also had an almost father-son relationship with his older brother, Jack. In fact, Jack had even asked his parents if he could be Ted's godfather, and they agreed.

> "Ted certainly preferred sports to academics"

Over the years, Jack would teach Ted to sail, which then became a lifelong passion for the younger boy, and took enormous interest in his youngest brother's life, both socially and academically. He even went so far as to suggest books Ted might like to read.

Ted certainly preferred sports to academics, and lagged behind his siblings at school. Instead, he became the family jester, always cracking jokes and endearing people to him with his charming nature. It was this jovial demeanour that would get the Kennedys through some of the tough times ahead.

Ted was only six when the family relocated to London in 1938. After specifically requesting

THE KENNEDY CLAN

THE KENNEDY CHILDREN ALL HAD THEIR OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITIES

Joseph Patrick Kennedy Jr

25 July 1915 - 12 August 1944

Joe Jr was the child who was primed for the top job - he had told his friends before graduating from school that he was going to be the first Catholic president of the United States. He was a disciplined student and an intensely competitive athlete.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

29 May 1917 - 22 November 1963

Jack was a sickly child, always waylaid with one malady or another, and nearly dying of scarlet fever in 1920. He didn't always work as hard as he could at school, but was usually keen to play practical jokes. However, that isn't to say that he wasn't ready for a life of public service in the US Navy Reserves and beyond.

Rose Marie Kennedy

13 September 1918 - 7 January 2005

As a child, Rosemary was slower than the rest of her siblings - almost certainly as a result of her delayed birth. While she flourished in England, her mood swings returned full force upon her return to the United States, and it was this that prompted Joe Sr to try to change things.

Kathleen Agnes Kennedy

20 February 1920 - 13 May 1948

Kick Kennedy was everything Joe Sr wanted in a daughter - she was fearless and charming in equal measure. While she participated at the dinner table debates, she was sent to convent schools against her wishes, but her stoicism was a testament to her strong Kennedy upbringing.

Eunice Mary Kennedy

10 July 1921 - 11 August 2009

Eunice was an average student at school, but of all the Kennedy children, it was she who would take Rosemary's condition the most to heart. Her sister's disability would profoundly affect her childhood, and influence the rest of her life as she strove to better lives.

While Joe Jr and Jack didn't live in London, they did visit. Here, they lean over the balcony of their father's residence to watch Rose take Kick and Rosemary to Buckingham Palace

Some of the Kennedy children enjoying a sailing trip. They often sailed at their summer home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts

the post, Joe Sr had been appointed as the US ambassador to the Court of St James's. Only Joe Jr and Jack would stay behind, because they were both enrolled at Harvard at this point. Those who did make the journey across the ocean would flourish.

Patricia and Eunice both attended convent schools, while Rosemary and Kick were presented as debutantes to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace on 11 May 1938. Rosemary may have tripped in front of the royals, but the press kindly made no comment.

Kick was considered to be the debutante of 1938, and spent most of her time in London being educated at Queen's College. There she had a wide circle of friends, most of whom were members of high society, like David Rockefeller. She also worked on various committees for social events.

But disaster struck in 1939. As World War II broke out and fighting began across Europe, Joe Sr decided that it wasn't safe for his family anymore. He would stay behind to continue his job in London, while the rest of the Kennedys were to return to the safety of the neutral United States. So that's what they all did - except for Rosemary. The oldest daughter instead remained in the countryside of Hertfordshire, where she was having a wonderful time. Being alone in the country with her father and no other siblings suited Rosemary - she didn't have to share him. In April 1940, she wrote a letter to him in which she said: 'Well Daddy, I feel honour because you chose me to stay'. She finished it: 'PS I am so fond of you. And. Love you very much'. It was in Hertfordshire that Rosemary found her calling, working with young children at Montessori School. She read them tales and made up games of make-believe that had the children wide-eyed with wonder.

During the spring of 1940, however, it seemed that Adolf Hitler was intent on invading England, and Joe Sr no longer deemed the country safe for her. Through a friend, he organised her passage back to her family in the United States. Little did anyone know that a life of misery would await her, which would begin in the following few years.

Life in the United States continued to be business as usual. The children gradually grew up and went to college. Tragedy didn't strike until 1944 when Joe Jr, who had enrolled in the Navy, died during a covert mission. Little Ted was only 12 years old, and the death spurred Bobby to leave his studies at Harvard to join the US Navy. The Kennedy children all felt the call of public service at some point - it was in their blood, after all.

Rose has her photograph taken with her three oldest children - Joe Jr, Jack and Rosemary - not soon after the latter's birth

Patricia Helen Kennedy

6 May 1924 - 17 September 2006

Growing up, it was Patricia who was always considered the most beautiful and sophisticated Kennedy girl. She had a lifelong fascination with Hollywood, and dreamed of working as a producer one day. Even her father commented that: "Pat is the one with a head for business."

Robert Francis Kennedy

20 November 1925 - 6 June 1968

Billed by some a generous boy, Joe Sr had all but written him off as the 'runt' of the family. Bobby learned young that he would need a tough exterior, and it was something that got him through his childhood and readied him for a life in politics.

Jean Ann Kennedy

20 February 1928 - now

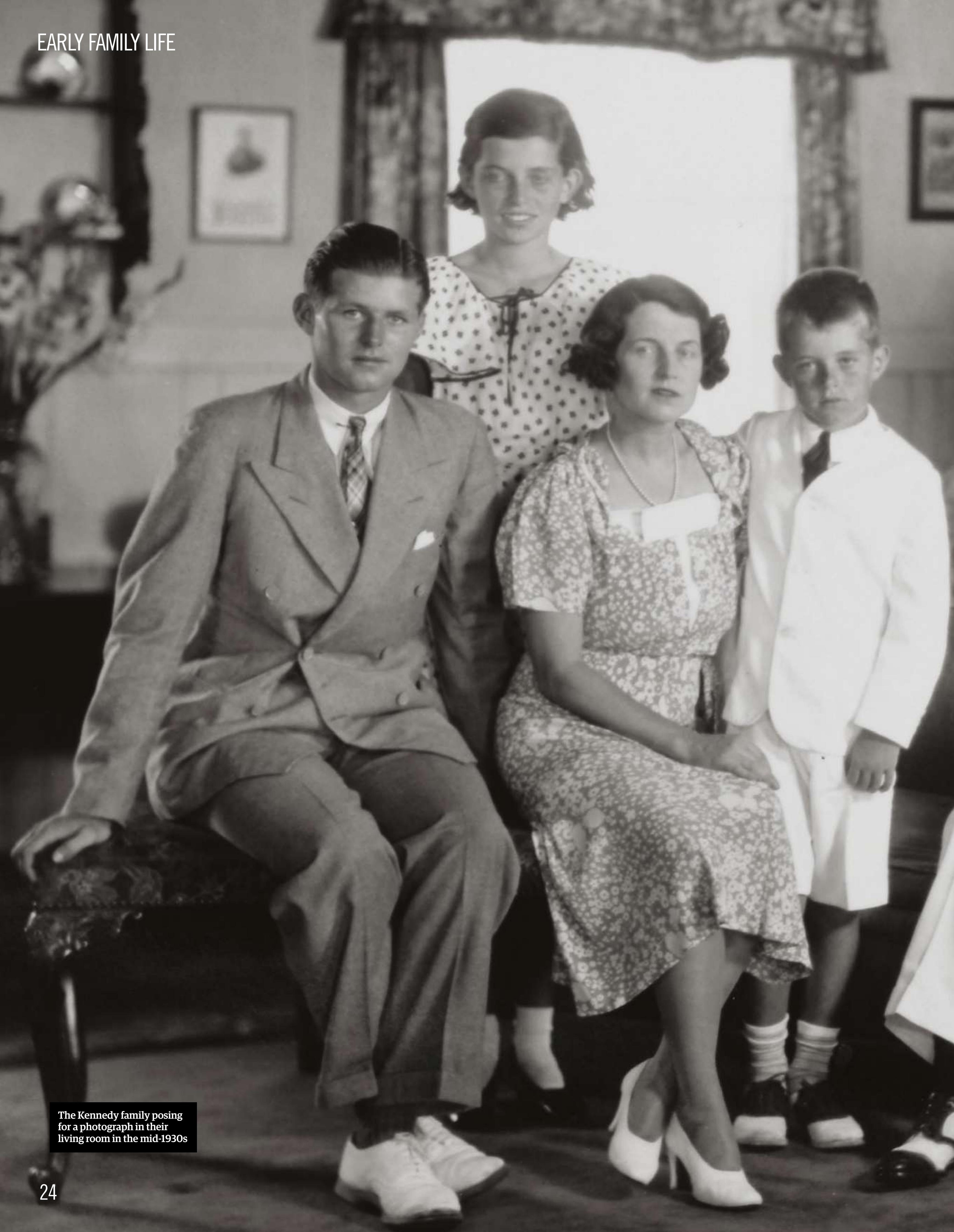
Perhaps the most shy of all of the Kennedy clan, Jean attended Catholic Sacred Heart schools in both the United States and the United Kingdom. She completed her tertiary education at Manhattanville College, majoring in English. Like her sister, Eunice, Rosemary's plight caused her to set up a non-profit dedicated to helping those with disabilities.

Edward Moore Kennedy

22 February 1932 - 25 August 2009

The youngest child by four years, Ted enjoyed slightly less restrictive parentings. While he performed well at school, he wasn't a standout student, and enjoyed athletics, drama, debate and glee club. He was more of a joker, ready to see the family through some of their toughest times, but the age-old Kennedy virtue of dedicating oneself to public service wasn't lost on him.

© Getty Images



The Kennedy family posing for a photograph in their living room in the mid-1930s

© Getty images

JOSEPH KENNEDY SR: THE PATRIARCH

JOSEPH KENNEDY SENIOR HAD BIG AMBITIONS FOR HIS CHILDREN, FOCUSING ON THE CAREERS OF HIS SONS AND THE MARRIAGES OF HIS DAUGHTERS

Joseph Kennedy Sr in 1914, the year that he married Rose Fitzgerald and became president of the Columbia Trust bank. Kennedy told the press that he was the youngest bank president in the United States. His father, Patrick 'PJ' Kennedy, had held a large share in the bank, and had assisted his son in buying it

The marriage in 1914 of Joseph Kennedy Sr and Rose Fitzgerald was a political union, joining one of Boston's most powerful Irish Catholic families. Joseph's father, PJ Kennedy, had already parlayed his wealth as a saloon owner and investor into influence upon local politics, and Joseph had made a rapid start in what would become a successful career in finance. Rose was the eldest daughter of PJ's biggest rival, John 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald, the mayor of Boston. Joseph and Rose Kennedy expected their nine children to continue the work of building a political dynasty. Rose shared Joe's hard head for business, and once commented on their marriage in distinctly businesslike terms: "We were individuals with highly responsible roles," she said, "in a partnership that yielded rewards which we shared."

Kennedy was intelligent, worked hard and was ostensibly religious. Yet he allowed himself the license of endless philandering, and manipulated his children's lives from a variety of luxurious hotels and resorts. He was infinitely ambitious, entirely lacking in moral scruples, and believed that his children's lives were expressions of his own life. From these assumptions of power, and Joseph Sr's ruthless efforts to place his children in positions of influence, there arose the sudden rise and tragic failure of the Kennedy dynasty.

His expectations of himself were as high as those of an American could be. Apart from assuming that he would successfully amass enormous wealth, he aspired to become president. But he was handicapped by his Irish Catholic background, and his political record. His political chances expired in the opening months of World War II, when as Roosevelt's ambassador to London, he had advised the appeasement of Hitler and the abandonment of America's British ally. After that, his ambitions focused on the careers of his sons and the marriages of his daughters.

The 'First Father', as he became, controlled every aspect of his children's upbringing. A compulsive and expert philanderer, and possessed of an insider's knowledge of image control from his time as an investor in Hollywood, Joseph Sr presented his family to the public as a model family of patriotic, and also Catholic, Americans. The family games of American football in the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port

The Hollywood star Gloria Swanson was one of Joseph Kennedy Sr's mistresses. He arranged financing for her hit film of 1929, Queen Kelly

United States ambassador to the court of St James's, Joseph Kennedy Sr, and his wife Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, in 1940

Marlene Dietrich, another of Joseph Kennedy Sr's mistresses, at Los Angeles Airport, 1948

on Cape Cod were a sibling competition played with uncompromising force.

All nine children received training in Catholicism, but beyond that, Joseph Sr's expectations divided along lines of gender. His daughters were kept in a state of innocence – if not ignorance – when it came to sex, and were denied boyfriends. His sons, however, were exhorted to follow in their father's path and pursue as much sex as possible, inside or outside marriage. The movie star Marlene Dietrich, who had slept with Joseph Sr in her youth, recalled that when she was in her early 60s, President John F Kennedy invited her to the White House, and tried to seduce her because, she said, he wished to emulate his father.

The Kennedy sons were driven to succeed by the need to win their controlling father's approval. The Kennedy daughters, however, were driven into unhappiness by Joseph Sr's repressive attitude. He would touch or pinch his daughters' friends, and on one occasion is alleged to have even presented himself to one of them with a towel wrapped round him while making crude remarks. His eldest daughter, Rosemary, was an evident liability to his ambitions for his sons. Rosemary had frequent mood swings and fits of rage. Doctors had diagnosed her as mentally ill; more recently, psychiatrists who have studied her case history have concluded that she was depressed. Joseph Sr, on medical advice, later had her lobotomised. She was effectively written out of the family story, and expunged from the dynastic image.

> "Joseph Sr presented his family as a model family of patriotic Americans"

Joseph Sr seduced the film starlets and secretaries who worked for him. He spent much of his time away from home, working in Hollywood or New York. He preferred the company of male friends in Palm Beach to the noise and disorder of the family home in Boston. Rose seemed to accept her husband's adulteries, or at least not complain about them within earshot of a third party – even when her husband invited his mistress, the actress Gloria Swanson, to join him and Rose on a holiday. Herself a political child, Rose seems to have understood that her humiliation was, unfortunately, a collateral cost of the family business, the relentless pursuit of power, and the building of a dynasty.

Joseph Sr and Rose Kennedy (far right) in London with eight of their nine children. Left to right: Edward, Jean, Robert, Patricia, Eunice, Kathleen, Rosemary and John

Joseph Sr (seated) and Rose (standing behind him) with their children and sons- and daughters-in-law at Hyannis Port, 1963

Joseph Kennedy Sr's father, Patrick 'PJ' Kennedy, who became a successful saloon bar owner and alcohol importer

That dynasty began in 1915. "This child is the future president of the nation," Joseph had informed 'Honey Fitz' over the crib of his eldest son, Joseph 'Joe' Kennedy Jr. The task of becoming America's first Catholic president consumed Joe Jr's life, and became his sole purpose. He followed his father to Harvard, as his brothers John F 'Jack' Kennedy, Robert 'Bobby' Kennedy and Edward 'Ted' Kennedy were to do. He went to Nazi Germany in 1934 on his father's orders, and sent back a report of which his father approved, that Nazi eugenic policy was 'a great thing'.

Ten years later, Joe Jr, serving as a pilot, was killed by an accidental explosion during a test flight. Joseph Sr had hoped that Joe Jr would begin his career in politics by contesting a congressional seat in Massachusetts' Eleventh District in the 1946 elections. Adapting to Joe Jr's death, Joseph Sr now laid a double weight of expectation upon his second son. In 1947, John F Kennedy entered Congress as the elected representative of the Eleventh District.

Joseph Sr supervised John F Kennedy's rise to the presidency. In 1952, Joseph Sr financed JFK's successful campaign for the Senate. He forbade JFK from marrying his Danish girlfriend, the journalist Inga Arvad, but approved of his alternative selection, Jacqueline Bouvier, who was both Catholic and the daughter of a rich Wall Street financier.

Joseph Sr was a Democrat, as an Irish Catholic had to be in Boston's religiously and ethnically divided politics. But Joseph Sr's political opinions were, like his extramarital affairs, at odds with his public affiliation. In 1947, when John F Kennedy entered Congress as a Democrat, his father supported Richard Nixon.

During John F Kennedy's first Senate term, Joseph Sr supported the Republican senator Joseph McCarthy's campaign against communist sympathisers, even though the Democrats opposed McCarthy as a bigot and rabble-rouser. Apart from being a personal friend of Joseph and having dated Joseph Sr's daughter, Patricia, McCarthy shared Joseph Sr's paranoid isolationism. In 1954, when the Senate censured McCarthy, John F Kennedy prepared a speech censure, but was spared from delivering it due to ill health.

When his son was running in the 1960 presidential election, Joseph Sr seemed to hedge his bets, and expressed some of his political sympathies to the other contender, Richard Nixon. It is also alleged that Joseph Sr rigged the vote in his son's favour in a crucial ward in Illinois; if so, this would not have been the first instance of Joseph Sr manipulating the vote.

After the election, Joseph Sr insisted that John F Kennedy engage Robert as attorney general, despite Robert already having refused this nepotistic appointment. Joseph Sr also organised his son's pre-inauguration ball, stacking the guest list with his connections in business, politics and entertainment, and polishing the image of the Kennedy White House as a modern-day Camelot.

Though Joseph Sr told the press that he would have no part in the Kennedy White House, he continued to seek to influence the political process. When Robert Kennedy directed his attention as attorney general to organised crime, Joseph Sr tried to dissuade him from pursuing Dave Beck, the leader of the corrupt Teamsters union. Joseph Sr sent one of his contacts, the supreme court justice William O Douglas, to try to talk Robert out of it.

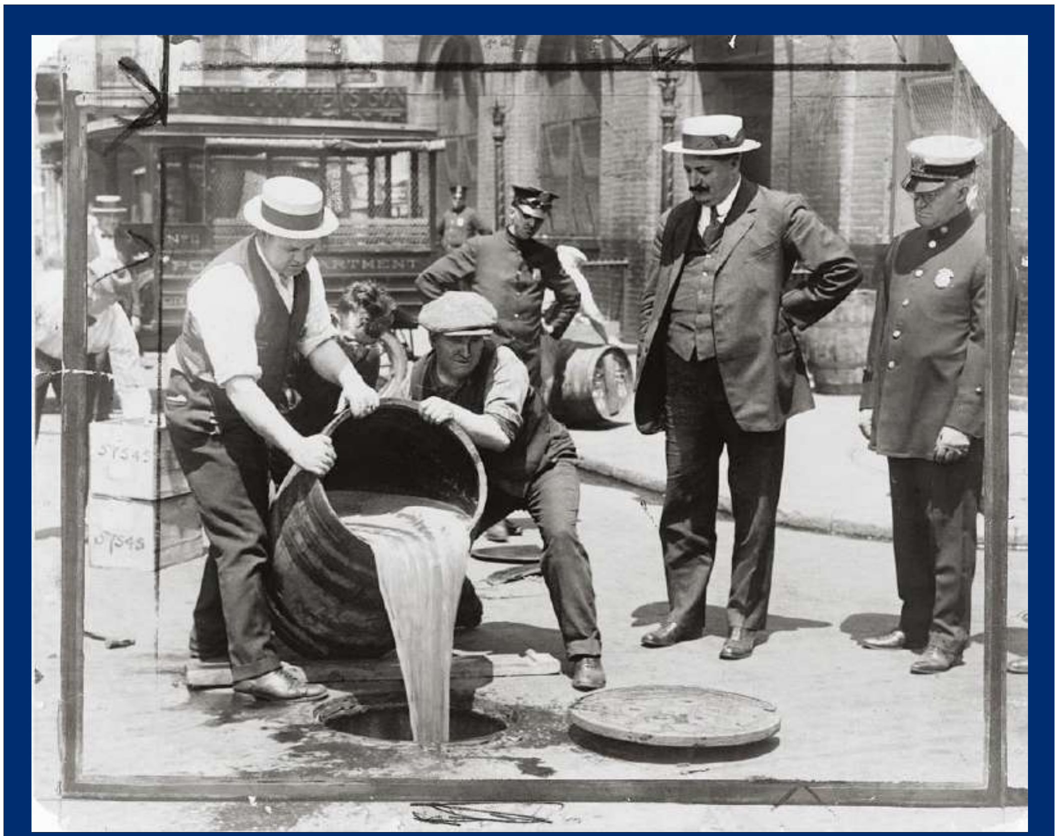
“Adapting to Joe Jr’s death, Joseph Sr now laid a double weight of expectation upon his second son”

With one son as president and another as attorney general, Joseph Sr had laid the ground for placing the youngest of his and Rose’s three surviving sons, Edward ‘Ted’ Kennedy, on the road to office. Before Ted was even 30, the age of eligibility for the Senate, Joseph Sr had picked Ted’s seat, and made the necessary arrangements. Ted then entered the Senate in 1962.

By then, however, Joseph Sr was in physical decline. In November 1961, weeks after Ted’s election victory, he had a stroke that left him partially paralysed and with speech problems. By November 1963, when the assassination of President Kennedy turned the dream-like rise of the Kennedy dynasty into tragedy, Joseph Sr was using a wheelchair. His last public appearance was in 1968, in a filmed message to the nation after the assassination of Robert Kennedy, as he launched his own run for the White House.

Joseph Kennedy died at the family compound in Hyannis Port on 18 November 1969. Three of his four sons had predeceased him, all dying by violence. Earlier that year, Joseph Sr’s surviving son, Ted Kennedy, had wrecked his chances of securing the presidency after fleeing the scene of a car accident on Cape Cod in which a young woman had drowned.

Ted Kennedy, like his brothers, had followed his father’s plan for the Kennedy men, and it had ended in disaster. After Harvard, he had won public office with his father’s support, while philandering in private with his father’s encouragement. In Ted’s fall from grace, the tragic loss of Joseph Sr’s three sons repeated itself as farce. Like the house he built at Hyannis Port, Joseph Sr’s political dynasty was built on sand.



JOSEPH KENNEDY, SR: BOOTLEGGER?

DID JOSEPH KENNEDY SR REALLY WORK WITH ORGANISED CRIME SYNDICATES TO SMUGGLE ALCOHOL DURING PROHIBITION?

When Joseph Kennedy Sr’s Harvard class held its tenth anniversary reunion in 1922, during Prohibition (1920-1933), he supplied the alcohol for the party. Not all of this was illegal. The Eighteenth Amendment prohibited the production, transportation and sale of alcohol, not its consumption. Kennedy had access to the liquor stock of his father, a pre-Prohibition liquor importer. It was illegal, though, to sell it to the hosts of the Harvard reunion.

Persistent rumours have alleged that some of the personal fortune that funded the political careers of Joseph Kennedy Sr’s sons came from smuggling or distributing alcohol during Prohibition. In fact, it was Kennedy’s manipulation of the stock market, and his adroit response to the crash of 1929, that contributed to his fortune.

In another adrift move, in 1933 Kennedy secured a permit to import medicinal liquor. He formed a company called Somerset Importers, went to Britain, and secured importation rights from Gordon’s Gin, among others. In 1972, the mobster and former bootlegger Frank Costello claimed to have worked with Kennedy as a bootlegger. It is possible that Costello’s ships carried Kennedy’s legal cargo along with their illegal imports.

In 1946, as he made preparations for John F Kennedy’s first run for Congress, Joseph Sr sold Somerset Importers to two ex-bootleggers, Longy Zwillman and Joseph Reinfeld. Yet there is no evidence that Kennedy broke the law during Prohibition – apart from, that is, selling the drink for his Harvard class reunion, probably from his father’s supply.

© Getty images

POLITICS

Leading a nation and fighting for change

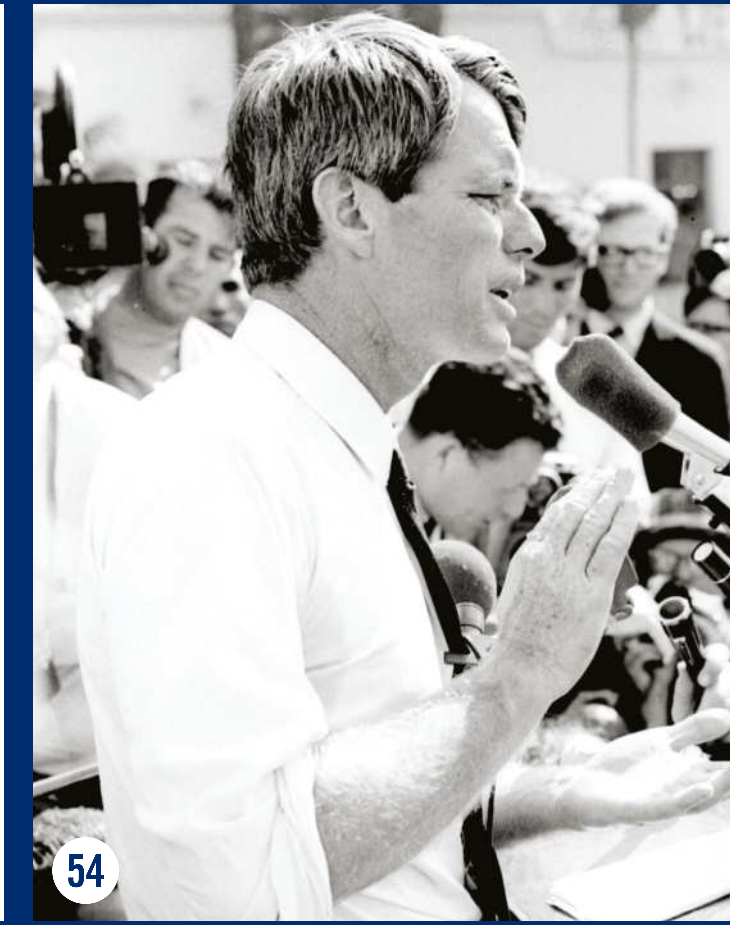
32 A POLITICAL DYNASTY
THE KENNEDYS HAVE BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH AMERICAN POLITICS AS MANY SOUGHT THE NATION'S HIGHEST OFFICE

38 MAN ON A MISSION
JOSEPH KENNEDY SENIOR HAD A BIG DREAM – TO SEE A KENNEDY IN THE WHITE HOUSE – AND HE WORKED TIRELESSLY TOWARDS IT

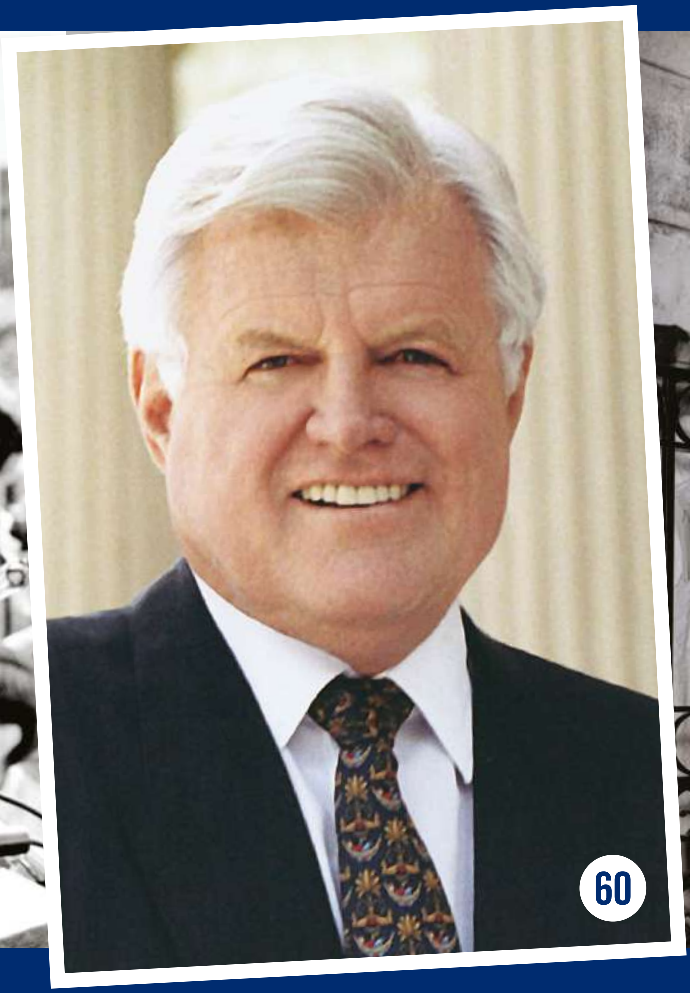
44 PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY
AN ICONIC LEADER WHOSE TIME IN OFFICE WAS FRAUGHT WITH COLD WAR TENSION, 'JFK' REMAINS A FASCINATING FIGURE

54 THE LAST IRISH PURITAN
ABRASIVE, HARD-HEADED AND DEEPLY IDEALISTIC, BOBBY KENNEDY BECAME ONE OF THE TOUGHEST POLITICIANS IN AMERICA

60 THE LIBERAL LION OF THE SENATE
SERVING AS SENATOR FOR 47 YEARS, TED KENNEDY HAD AN EVENTFUL CAREER IN POLITICS



44



60

38

A POLITICAL DYNASTY

THE KENNEDYS HAVE BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH AMERICAN POLITICS AS ONE AFTER ANOTHER HAS SOUGHT THE NATION'S HIGHEST OFFICE

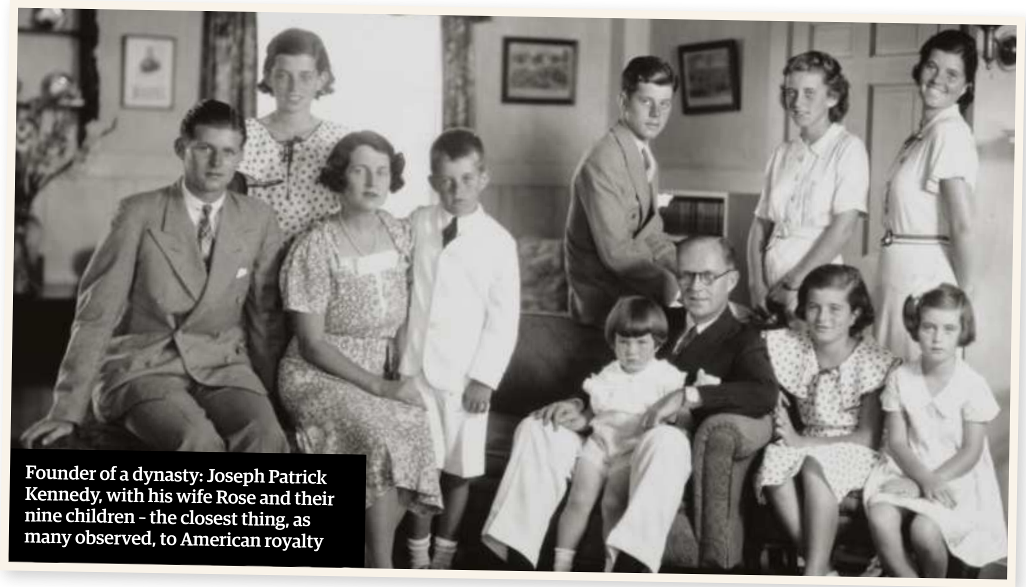
With a family name meaning 'hard-headed', the Kennedys were perhaps destined to do well in the often-savage world of politics. Described as the nearest thing America has ever had to a royal family, the Kennedys overcame poverty, prejudice and the fearful odds stacked against them as immigrant Catholics in a predominantly Protestant country. They have been likened, not unfairly, to a long-running soap opera, with all the scandal, triumph and shocking revelations that such a comparison suggests. The final element of any good soap opera has also been present in abundance: the Kennedy story is so marked by personal tragedy that there has even been talk of a 'Kennedy curse'.

From their roots in Ireland (their name was originally 'O-Cinneide') the family has always been willing to get involved in the struggles of the day. Initially this took the form of protest against injustices in Ireland, but the impulse to protest quickly morphed into a desire to change the system from within, and a long involvement in politics began in the Irish-Catholic wards of Boston. It would see the son of an Irish immigrant elected to the Massachusetts State Senate, a grandson installed as the US ambassador to Great Britain and a great-grandson elected president of the United States. Other Kennedys would serve in Congress and the Senate, as state governors and ambassadors, and the family's service continues to this day, in the form of Connecticut State Senator Edward Moore Kennedy Jr.

Kennedys had probably been involved in an uprising against British rule in Ireland in 1798, and the family would continue its active involvement in politics after it had been split by the potato famine of the 1840s; Patrick Kennedy left for America in search of new opportunities, while brothers John and James remained behind.

Rapid population growth among the Irish in Boston was transforming them into an important political force when PJ Kennedy, the son of Patrick, took his first steps into the political arena in 1884, winning a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives at the age of 26. The politics of the day was a murky world, dominated by patronage, corruption and 'graft', whereby cash would stick to the pockets of various parties as it made its way to its intended destination.

As a respected saloon-owner and whiskey importer, PJ had managed to amass the sort of financial strength and prestige that could easily be translated into political clout. By the time he was elected to the State Senate, in 1889, the Irish accounted for almost half the population of Boston. Although this was clearly a significant power



Founder of a dynasty: Joseph Patrick Kennedy, with his wife Rose and their nine children – the closest thing, as many observed, to American royalty

THE 'GREAT GAME'

THE KENNEDYS' POLITICAL JOURNEY WAS SIGNPOSTED BY TRAGEDY AS OFTEN AS BY TRIUMPH

1884

PJ Kennedy elected

Patrick Joseph Kennedy writes the opening chapter of the rich Kennedy history in politics, winning a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

1906

Honey for mayor

John 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald is elected mayor of Boston. He is re-elected in 1910 after a two-year period out of office.

1928

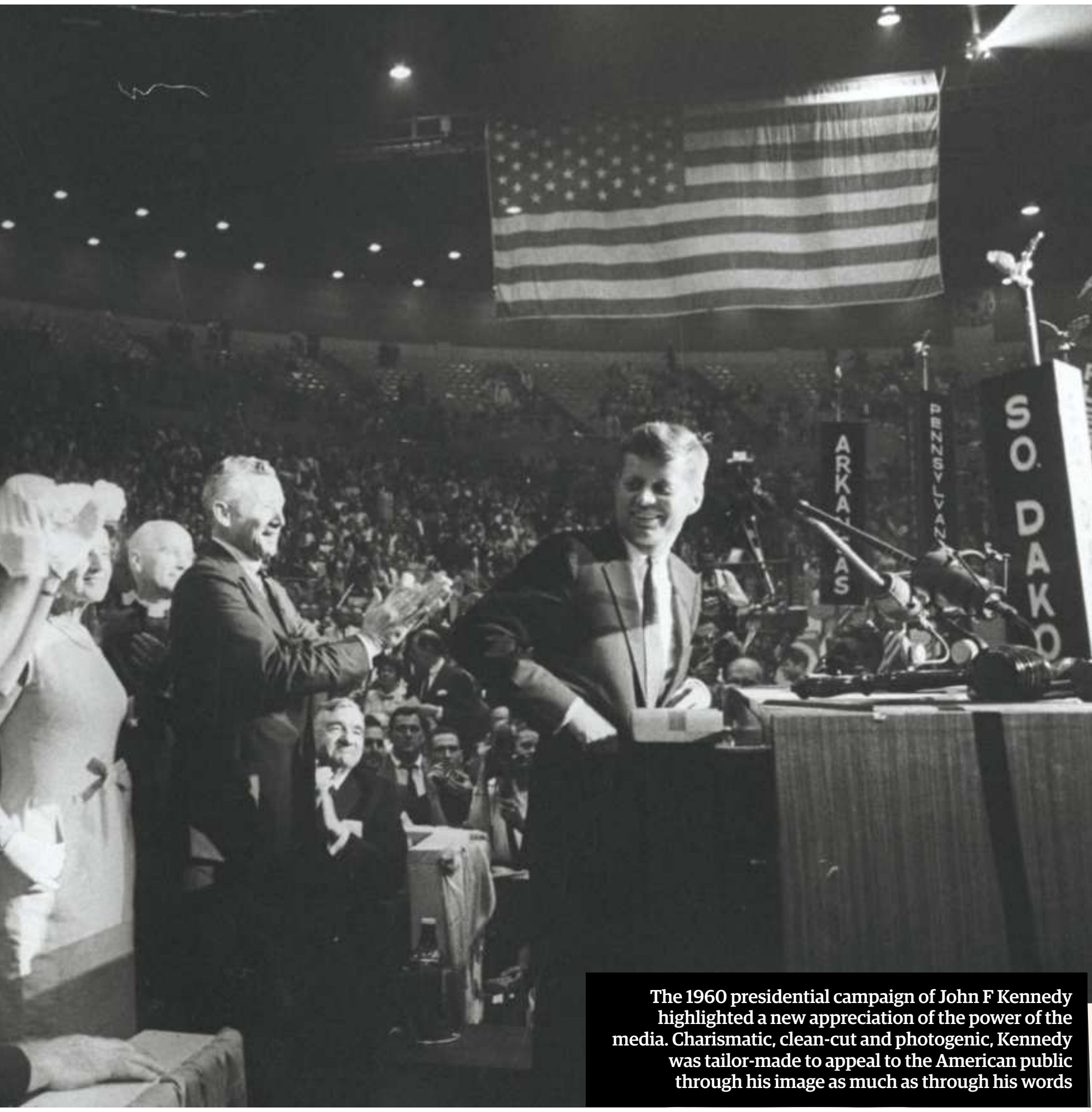
A Catholic candidate

Alfred E Smith runs for president, the first Catholic to do so, providing invaluable lessons for Joseph Kennedy as he plans such a bid for himself.

1934

In with FDR

Joseph Kennedy serves under FDR at the head of the newly formed Securities and Exchange Commission, believing it will pave the way to his own chance at the presidency.



The 1960 presidential campaign of John F Kennedy highlighted a new appreciation of the power of the media. Charismatic, clean-cut and photogenic, Kennedy was tailor-made to appeal to the American public through his image as much as through his words

Possibly the last photograph taken of Joe Kennedy Jr, before the fateful mission that cost him his life on 12 August 1944

Joseph Patrick Kennedy III carries on the proud Kennedy tradition as member of the US House of Representatives from Massachusetts' 4th district

> "The politics of the day was a murky world, dominated by corruption"

base, it was also one constantly at war with the established Anglo-Saxon Protestant elite (known as the 'Brahmins', in reference to the highest social class in India).

Back in Ireland, John and James were involved in resistance to British rule, with both brothers finding themselves imprisoned in 1887 for resisting arrest and non-payment of rent to their British landlord. Concerned for the wellbeing of the Kennedys remaining in Ireland, PJ sent money to clear the family debts. Despite this concern for the family back home, however, PJ identified just as much with America, the land of his birth. Another Boston politician took a very different view. Mayor John Francis Fitzgerald saw politics as a way to escape the prejudices that held him and his countrymen back, and he embraced his Irish heritage wholeheartedly.

12 August 1944

Death of son

Joseph Kennedy Jr, the man groomed by his father to one day be president, dies on a bombing mission. The torch is passed to his younger brother, John.

20 January 1961

A Catholic president

John F Kennedy is sworn in as the 35th president of the United States, having beaten Richard Nixon in the previous year's election.

22 November 1963

JFK's assassination

While visiting Dallas, Kennedy is shot twice by Lee Harvey Oswald while travelling in a motorcade in an open-topped car.

5 June 1968

Another Kennedy falls

Bobby Kennedy, younger brother of JFK, is shot and killed at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, while campaigning to be the Democratic candidate in the 1968 election.

17 March 1993

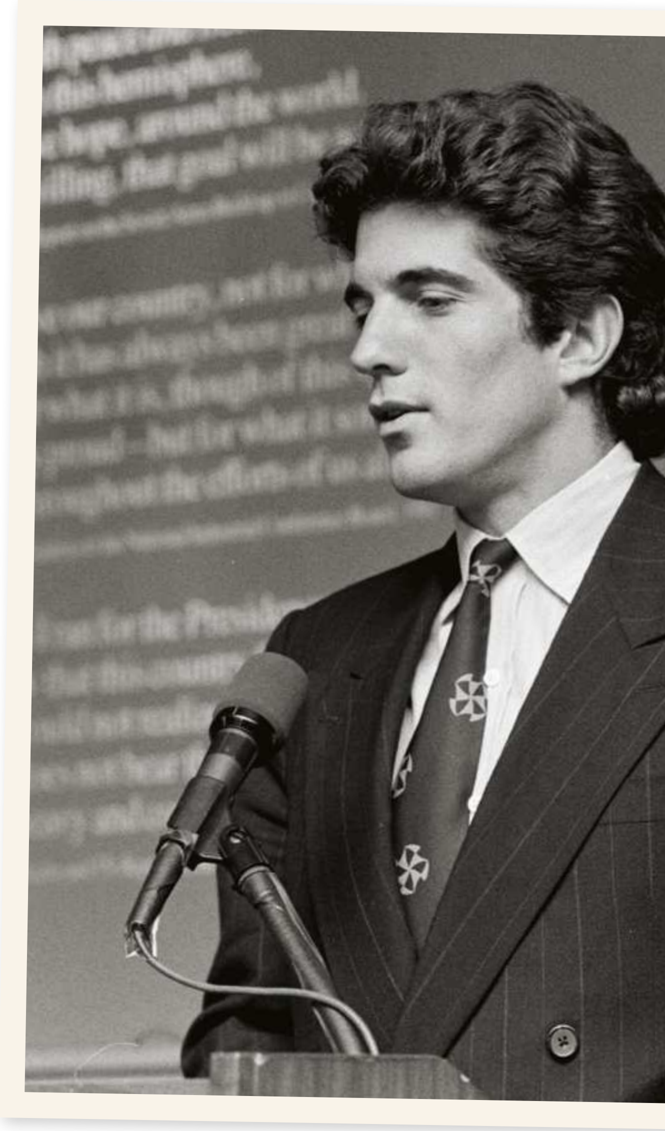
A new ambassador

Jean Kennedy Smith is nominated as US ambassador to Ireland by President Clinton. She goes on to play an important part in the Northern Ireland peace process.

With an ability to summon tears at will, and a tendency to break into song when addressing a crowd, he became known as 'Honey Fitz'. PJ found him distasteful and something of a caricature, but the two became inextricably bound together when their children, Rose Fitzgerald and Joseph Kennedy, met. As a savvy operator, Fitzgerald recognised the potential of winning over a political rival and invited the Kennedys to holiday with his family in Maine, in 1907. Joe and Rose fell in love, and the unification of the two powerful families would see the Kennedy dynasty begin in earnest.

Joseph Kennedy was a political creature from the day he was born. His mother, Mary, was wary of the stigma that clung to the Irish community in Boston, and deliberately chose 'Joseph' rather than the more Irish-sounding 'Patrick', to distance the boy from his roots. Mary showed her political awareness in other ways as well, being actively involved in women's suffrage.

Joe's pursuit of power would initially manifest itself in his determination to amass a personal fortune. Moving Rose and his family to New York in 1927 was as much to gain entry to the lucrative world of Wall Street as to escape the critical eye of the Boston Brahmins. Politics, though, would soon begin to intrigue him. The presidential run of Alfred E Smith in 1928 would give Joe a lesson in the obstacles facing him. As the first Catholic to run for the highest office in the land, Smith was subjected to vitriolic abuse and protests, with conspiracy theories of a Papal plot to take over America running rampant. Despite witnessing all this, Joe still harboured presidential ambitions, first for himself, and then for his sons.



> "Joseph Kennedy Jr was the man groomed to one day be president"

Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her husband (the Democratic vice presidential nominee) arrive at Boston's Logan Airport during the 1972 election

Joseph Kennedy Jr, the eldest son of Rose and Joe Sr, was the man groomed to one day be president. His father tried to maintain good relations with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in hopes it would smooth his son's path in politics. As ambassador to Great Britain, however, the elder Kennedy's isolationist views inevitably led to a falling out with the president, who demanded his resignation in October 1940.

Joe Sr was not deterred, declaring to his oldest son that "politics is a great game!", and still feeling confident that he could win that game. His plans were to flounder in the violence of World War II, a war he passionately believed America had

Smooth and handsome, John F Kennedy Jr (known affectionately as 'John John') seemed destined to follow in the footsteps of his father and uncles

no business getting involved with. First, his second son, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, went missing when his torpedo boat was sunk in the Pacific. Presumed dead, only to be found and hailed as a hero, JFK had won priceless political capital, but he was not expected to go into the world of politics. Joe Jr, meanwhile, was understandably delighted at the safe return of his little brother, but also felt that his own military service, in the far more dangerous world of bombing raids over Nazi Germany, was underappreciated. As if determined to win recognition for himself, he volunteered for a dangerous mission, and was killed when his bomber exploded in mid-air.

Joseph Kennedy Sr had no doubts what this meant when he talked to John. "I told him Joe was dead," he recalled, "and that it was therefore his responsibility to run for Congress."

Joseph's 'great game' of politics was proving tricky to master, but the Kennedys were making progress. Moving away from the old patronage-machine system, they pioneered a new era, where money and media would drive politics. Joseph L Kane, a cousin of Joe Sr, took on the running of John's Congressional bid in 1946. He had no doubts what was required. "It takes three things to win," he declared. "The first is money and the second is money and the third is money." Polling and advertising were used creatively and, at the age of 29, JFK became a congressman. In 1952, with the Senate now in their sights, Robert F Kennedy, John's younger brother, was brought in as campaign manager. It was the start of a highly productive political partnership, and the boys gradually began to think for themselves, outgrowing their father and increasingly disregarding his advice. In many ways, JFK's victory in 1952 signalled the end of the Brahmin era in Massachusetts.

Somewhat overshadowed by her father and brothers, Eunice Kennedy was nonetheless proving herself to be a highly capable political force. Born in an era where women were generally restricted to supporting roles, she worked tirelessly and effectively on John's Senate campaign. Her father was well aware of her strengths, but the attitudes of the day were summed up in his assertion that: "if that girl had been born with balls, she would have been a hell of a politician."

THE COLOURFUL WORLD OF 'HONEY FITZ'

JFK'S GRANDFATHER WAS A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE POLITICIAN, BUT HE DID THINGS HIS OWN WAY

As mayor of Boston, John Francis Fitzgerald epitomised the smooth-talking Irish politician. In the words of historian Thomas Maier, his style was 'an affable, flamboyant political flimflammery mixed with genuine concern and a desire for programmes of substance for his immigrant constituency'.

That genuine concern was what prevented 'Honey Fitz' from being a mere pantomime character. Moreover, he refused to cater only for the needs of his fellow Irish immigrants, keeping an eye out for other persecuted minorities, including Jews and Italians. He saw politics as a way to escape the prejudices that held the immigrant community back. Simply put, it was: "the only field where I could get influence and opportunity."

The boss of Boston's Ward Six, Matthew Keany, had come to the aid of the 18-year-old Fitzgerald when his father died, helping him to keep his family together, and taking him on as a protégé.

Elected to Boston's Common Council in 1891, he was in the State Senate the following year. By 1906, he was the first Irish-Catholic to be mayor of Boston.

The shady side of Boston politics at the time was summed up in a poem about Fitzgerald: 'Honey Fitz can talk you blind, On any subject you can find, Fish and fishing, motor boats, Railroads, streetcars, getting votes'. Fittingly enough, it was voter fraud that forced him to step down from his seat in Congress in 1919, but it was his scandalous relationship with a young roadhouse cigarette girl, Elizabeth 'Toodles' Ryan, that finally ended his political career.

©FDR Presidential Library & Museum; Library of Congress

A passionate campaigner for those with mental-health issues (her older sister, Rosemary, had intellectual disabilities), Eunice was a highly talented public speaker, with a delivery that was in many ways similar to that of her brother, John.

Despite her clear abilities, her role was to be a traditional one. When she married Robert Sargent Shriver in 1953, however, he was welcomed into the Kennedy business world and later into its political machine. The power was shifting in the family, but Joe still held great sway, and although Shriver had notions of high office for himself, the family patriarch had no such plans, concentrating instead on his two sons. Shriver did serve as ambassador to France, and was the vice presidential candidate for the Democrats in 1972, which ended in a crushing defeat.

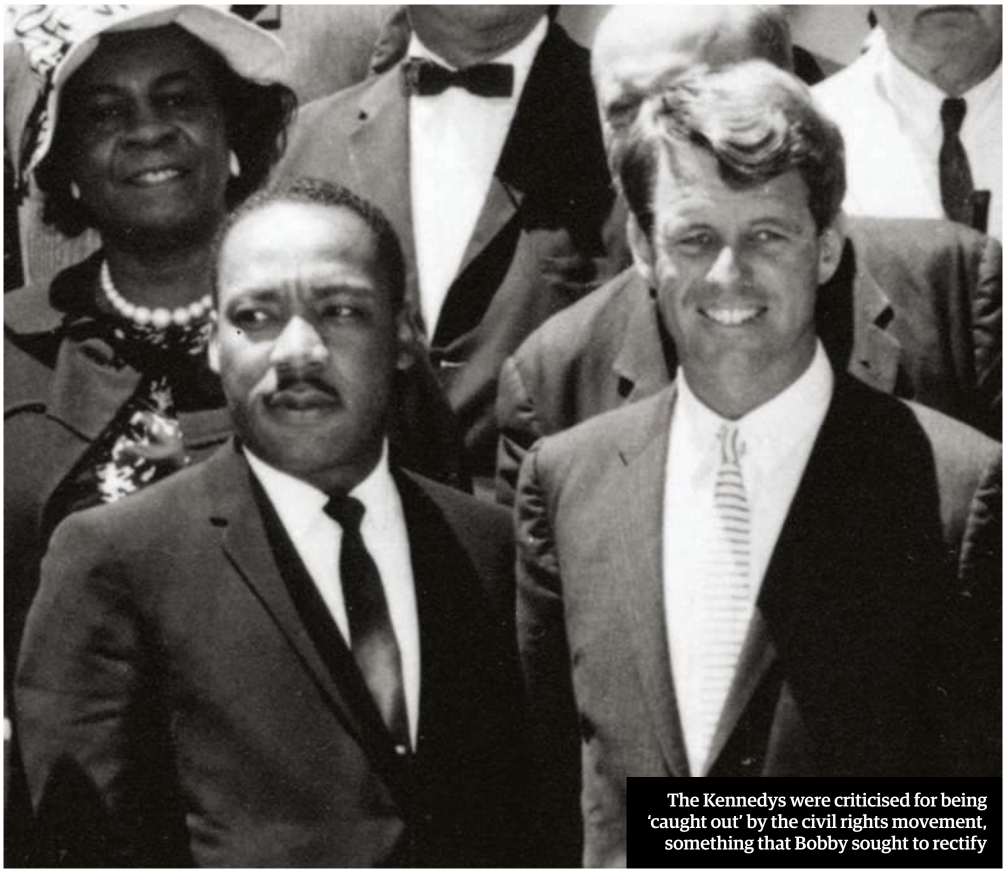
> “A hatred of communism would be a defining trait of the Kennedys”

The same treatment befell the other Kennedy females. When Jean married Stephen Smith, he was given an important role as a campaign manager, but the Kennedy males always held centre stage. Patricia Kennedy, a talented actress, was another daughter of whom Joe held a high opinion, but her role was limited to the (highly effective) support of John during his first run for Congress and his bid for the Oval Office (she often took the place of Jackie, who was pregnant at the time of the presidential campaign).

The overshadowing of the Kennedy women was nothing new. Rose herself, the family matriarch, had political opinions and the oratorical skills to express them. In a statement painfully similar to the one Joe passed on Eunice, a friend of Rose Kennedy once claimed that had Rose been a boy, she would have been the first Catholic president of the United States, rather than her son.

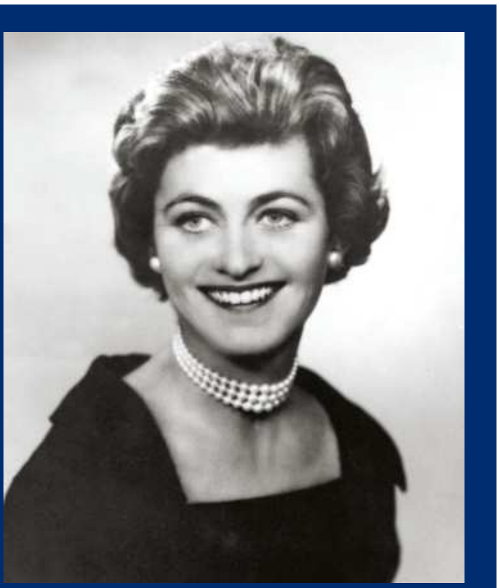
It was an era of extreme politics. A hatred of communism would be a defining trait of the Kennedys. It would to some extent blind JFK in his handling of America’s involvement in Vietnam, and it was strong enough to overcome party affiliations. Joe McCarthy would become a staunch family friend thanks to his anti-communist stance, Catholicism and Irish heritage. With that pedigree, the fact that he was a Republican could be overlooked, particularly by Joe Sr.

The civil rights movement would also assume huge importance in the Kennedy clan, although they initially seemed caught off guard by it. Sargent Shriver had been brought into the team



The Kennedys were criticised for being ‘caught out’ by the civil rights movement, something that Bobby sought to rectify

© Getty images



THE PATH TO PEACE

MOSTLY LIMITED TO SUPPORTING ROLES, ONE KENNEDY WOMAN MANAGED TO GRAB THE POLITICAL LIMELIGHT FOR HERSELF

The Kennedy’s roots in Ireland inevitably led to their interest in the ‘Troubles’ in Northern Ireland. Mary Courtney Kennedy (daughter of Robert F Kennedy and known as ‘Courtney’) married Paul Hill, the man wrongfully imprisoned for the Guildford bombings of 1974, but it was Jean Kennedy Smith who played the biggest role in the Northern Ireland story.

The sister of John, Bobby and Teddy, Jean was one Kennedy woman who finally managed to step out of the shadows and take centre stage, when she was appointed the US ambassador to Ireland by President Bill Clinton.

With her appointment announced on St Patrick’s Day, 1993, she was not expected to achieve much, given her lack of political or diplomatic experience.

Jean, however, had wanted and had lobbied for the position. Well into her 60s, she made an immediate impact by helping secure a visa for Sinn Fein’s Gerry Adams to visit the States in 1994. She went on to play an important part in the formation of the Good Friday Agreement that paved the way for peace in Northern Ireland.

After her brief but effective period in the spotlight, Jean quietly retired in 1998. She was awarded honorary Irish citizenship for her efforts.

to liaise with leaders of the African-American community, and it was his idea that John should phone the wife of Martin Luther King to express sympathy when her husband was arrested and imprisoned during the presidential campaign. “Negroes don’t expect everything will change tomorrow, no matter who’s elected,” he advised, “but they do want to know that you care.” It proved to be good advice. John made the call, and in the election he won 80 per cent of the African-American vote.

The Kennedys had reached their zenith, but the fall would be far quicker than the rise. Within a few short years of JFK becoming the first Catholic president, he and his brother, Bobby, had been assassinated, their father had suffered a debilitating stroke, and younger brother Teddy had seen any presidential ambitions of his own destroyed at Chappaquiddick, with the death of Mary Jo Kopechne. Murmurings of a ‘Kennedy curse’ began.

By 1974, the traditional Irish-Catholic support for the Kennedys was collapsing. It marked a turning point in America’s relationship with its most famous family. Ted, though realistic presidential ambitions had been shelved, remained active as a senator, and in 1972 he backed a federal court order aimed at desegregation of schools in Massachusetts. The ‘busing’ of black students into predominantly white areas, and vice versa, led to him being branded a traitor to his people. The Kennedys had been careful to keep out of local disputes before, but had backed similar desegregation laws for southern states.

The abuse hurled at Ted was deeply symbolic. Just a decade earlier, the aide of a political rival had commented that Teddy was “a prince of the Church in this state. You can’t lay a glove on him.”

The Kennedys were on a clear downward trajectory in terms of influence, as continuing personal scandals dealt crippling blows to their political prestige. Robert Kennedy Jr was arrested for possession of heroin in 1983, ending any political ambitions. Another son of Robert, Joseph P Kennedy II, was elected to Congress, but his advisor, brother Michael, was forced to quit after a sex scandal, and he later died in a skiing accident. Joseph himself then dropped out of the race for the governorship of Massachusetts after a messy divorce.

John F Kennedy Jr, the son of JFK, was seen as something of a great hope for the family. Following work as a lawyer and a journalist, he was expected to run for the Senate in 2000, but was killed in a plane crash the year before. The Kennedy curse had struck again.

The Kennedy name is still very much present in US politics – in fact, it is difficult to imagine a world in which there isn’t a Kennedy serving in some office. Joe Kennedy III (grandson of Bobby) is a congressman; Edward M Kennedy Jr (son of Teddy) is a member of the Connecticut Senate; and until 2017, Caroline Kennedy (daughter of JFK) was US ambassador to Japan. The heyday of the Kennedy political dynasty, however, is well and truly over – at least for now.

WASHINGTON
CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

Bobby Kennedy addresses an assembly campaigning for racial equality in front of the Justice Department

MAN ON A MISSION

JOSEPH KENNEDY SENIOR HAD A BIG DREAM – TO SEE A KENNEDY IN THE WHITE HOUSE – AND HE WORKED TIRELESSLY TOWARDS IT

Joseph Patrick 'Joe' Kennedy Sr was in many ways a walking contradiction. His power base was among the Irish-Catholic community of Boston, yet he strove to break away from this label and be accepted as an American. He cultivated links with the Vatican, yet was aware of the frailties of the religious men he dealt with. He found the prejudice heaped on Irish Catholics unbearable, yet he was guilty of exhibiting the same prejudices against other immigrant groups.

Despite these contradictions, Joe Kennedy became one of the giants of American politics, and was able to smoothly transfer personal ambitions onto his sons when the timing was right. At one point, he looked a good bet to be the first Catholic president of the United States, a distinction his son, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, would eventually earn in 1961.

Kennedy's early career in business appeared to be single-minded. His first job out of university was as a state financial examiner, which gave him access to the inner workings of the major banks in Massachusetts and was, as historian Thomas Maier has pointed out: "a guided tour of how to make money." In this role, Kennedy helped to avert a crisis for the Columbia Trust Company (owned by his father, PJ Kennedy), and was rewarded by being named the bank's president at the age of just 25.

Despite his Harvard education, however, he was becoming increasingly frustrated with the cold shoulder offered to him by the elite Anglo-Saxon

A young Joseph Kennedy, already president of the Columbia Trust Company at the age of 25, relaxes at Palm Beach, Florida

Eunice Kennedy snaps a photo of her father at his political zenith, returning to New York's LaGuardia airport during his spell as US ambassador to the United Kingdom. A year later, he would be forced to resign, and his personal political ambitions would be over

AIMING HIGH

THE QUEST TO PUT A KENNEDY IN THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD ULTIMATELY PROVE SUCCESSFUL

1913

Kennedy becomes president

Although it was only the presidency of a bank, Joe Kennedy's appointment, at the age of just 25, was a notable feat.

7 October 1914

A joining of families

Two powerful Boston families are unified by the marriage of Joe to Rose Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of John Francis 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald.

1934

Chairman of the SEC

Kennedy is appointed the first head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, intended to put a halt to Wall Street's free-wheeling financial shenanigans.

5 November 1936

A cardinal visits the president

The influential Cardinal Spellman visits FDR at his Hyde Park residence in a meeting brokered by Kennedy.

Protestant community that saw itself as the ruling class of Boston. “You can go to Harvard and it doesn’t mean a damned thing,” he railed. “The only thing these people understand is money.” The acquisition of wealth, therefore, was intrinsically tied up with power in Kennedy’s mind from early on in his life. He went on to pursue wealth in order to exert influence, and that inevitably brought him into the world of politics.

His wife, Rose, shared Joe’s hard head for business, and once commented on their marriage in distinctly businesslike terms: “We were individuals with highly responsible roles,” she said, “in a partnership that yielded rewards which we shared.”

As well as the power of wealth, Kennedy was aware of the power of the church. It was more than just an institution to be revered and obeyed. He recognised the power it could exert, and realised that someone with connections at the highest levels of the Catholic church would be a useful man to have around. It was a double-edged sword, however – prejudice against Catholics was a simple matter of fact in America at the time, and would remain a major obstacle throughout Kennedy’s political career.

This was made painfully clear in the 1928 presidential election, when Alfred E Smith made his ill-fated bid to become the country’s first Catholic president. Kennedy, by then a shrewd operator, chose not to support Smith, despite his personal interest in seeing a Catholic break through the glass ceiling and into the White House. Suspecting (rightly, as it turned out) that Smith was doomed to fail, Joe declined to openly support him. Rose would later recall the pride felt in the Irish-Catholic community that one of their own had risen so high, but there is doubt that her husband even voted for him. Smith was comprehensively defeated by Herbert Hoover, and Kennedy was thus spared the ignominy of having backed a dud. It was a hard-edged, political decision, and it would not be the last example of this in Kennedy’s career.

Four years later, Kennedy was firmly in the camp of Democratic candidate Franklin Delano Roosevelt. There was certainly personal interest in the decision – he saw it as a step on the path towards his own political ambitions – but he also believed that FDR was the man to save America. A donation of $25,000 was enough to get the attention of the man who would serve an unprecedented three terms (and part of a fourth) in the White House, but it was unclear in which capacity Kennedy would be called to serve.

By backing FDR, rather than Smith, for the Democratic nomination in 1932, Kennedy believed he had demonstrated his ability to rise above partisan politics. It was therefore a shock and a disappointment to be offered the ambassadorship to Ireland as his reward. Kennedy had higher ambitions, although it is clear that FDR genuinely believed he would be able to help foster better relations between Ireland and Britain.

Digging his heels in, Kennedy was offered a far more interesting role, one that tapped into his financial acumen rather than his heritage. As head of the newly formed Securities and Exchange Commission, he would be keeping an eye on Wall Street during a tumultuous decade. He would have preferred to be named secretary of the Treasury

The first meeting of the Securities and Exchange Commission sees Joe Kennedy in the role of chairman, his first position under Roosevelt

Joe looks relaxed on a Palm Beach golf course as he is photographed after his appointment to be the US ambassador to the United Kingdom

1938

A great joke

Kennedy is appointed US ambassador to the United Kingdom, a move Roosevelt terms “a great joke. The greatest joke in the world.”

1940

The final breach

Under the influence of the ‘Cliveden Set’, including Neville Chamberlain, Kennedy is vehemently opposed to American involvement in the war, pitting him directly against his president.

1946

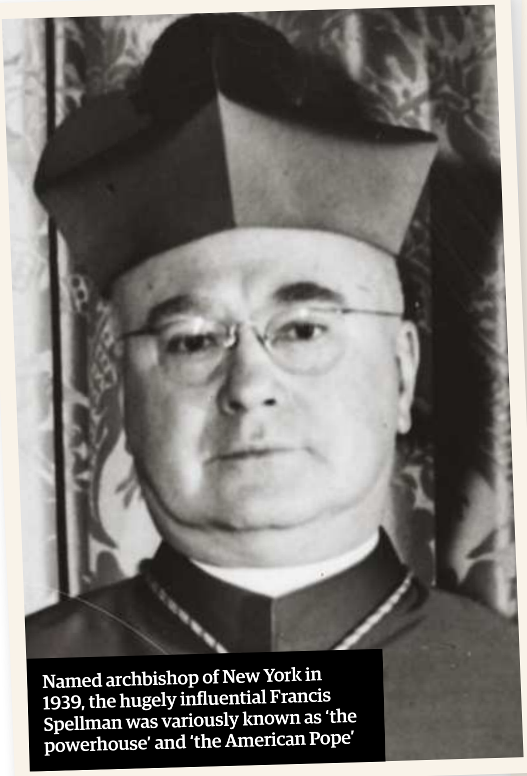
The quest continues

Determined to get a Kennedy into the White House, even if it can no longer be himself, Joe enlists cousin Joseph L Kane to run John’s bid for Congress.

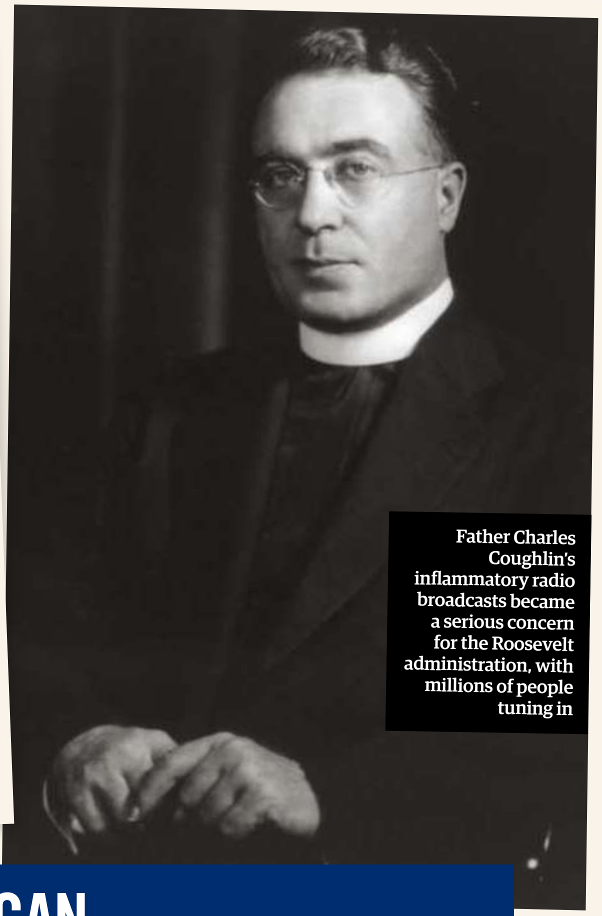
8 November 1960

A dream fulfilled

John F Kennedy is elected president of the United States. Joseph Kennedy has seen his dream come true, but he would endure a debilitating stroke just over a year later.



Named archbishop of New York in 1939, the hugely influential Francis Spellman was variously known as 'the powerhouse' and 'the American Pope'



Father Charles Coughlin's inflammatory radio broadcasts became a serious concern for the Roosevelt administration, with millions of people tuning in

Department, but he accepted the job offer. FDR would talk happily of Kennedy's appointment, saying you needed to "set a thief to catch a thief."

After his term at the Securities and Exchange Commission ended, Kennedy ran the US Maritime Commission, but was becoming disenchanted with Roosevelt. The president, Kennedy believed, saw him only through the prism of his Irish-Catholic background. Kennedy's role in muzzling the troublesome priest that was Father Charles Coughlin, an outspoken critic of FDR who used his radio broadcasts to denigrate the president, no doubt concerned him. Kennedy had done a good job, thanks to his influence in the Catholic church, but he did not want to be seen merely as the man to call on when an Irish or Catholic problem raised its head.

The story of Father Coughlin is also rather revealing. Although Kennedy recognised him as somewhat of a dangerous force, and saw tendencies towards demagoguery in his speeches, he was intrigued by the man's ability to hold his audience through his charismatic radio appearances. Ever the pragmatist, Kennedy could pick out useful elements even from political enemies and file them away for future use. The mastery of media would become an important weapon in the Kennedy dynasty's arsenal.

> "The mastery of media would become an important weapon"

By 1937, Joe believed he had proved he was an American, rather than an Irish Catholic. In fact, he felt that the era of a distinct Irish-Catholic community was drawing to a close as the 'melting pot' turned them all into Americans first. Seeing his heritage as something that had held him back, he was eager to be accepted as a fully fledged American. As he pointed out, he had been born in America and so had his father, he had attended Harvard, and he was serving the president of the United States. How 'American' did he have to be? Ironically, he tended to look down on other immigrant minorities, with a streak of anti-Semitism being particularly noticeable.

The final breach with FDR, however, would not come from a disagreement over how American Kennedy was, but a disagreement about what that meant. With war on the horizon, the president and

A FRIEND IN THE VATICAN

KENNEDY PROVED HIS ABILITY AS A POLITICAL FIXER BY HELPING TO SILENCE FATHER COUGHLIN

The problem raised by Father Charles Coughlin of Michigan boosted Joe Kennedy Senior's influence both in the administration of Roosevelt and in the Vatican itself. Coughlin had started out as a firm supporter of the president and his reform policies (he once said: "I will never change my philosophy that the New Deal is Christ's deal,") but he gradually changed his tune. His radio broadcasts, listened to by millions, began to accuse Roosevelt of communist sympathies and of being 'anti-God'.

The president called upon Kennedy, as a leading figure in the Catholic community, to meet with Coughlin and monitor his antics, but the situation soon required more than a watchful eye. By the end of 1933, Kennedy was reporting that Coughlin was "a very dangerous proposition in the whole country," and recognised the need to get help from the higher echelons of the church in silencing him. His growing relationship with Cardinal Francis Spellman, who in turn had close links with Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, secretary of state in the Vatican, became key. Pacelli was able to bring the matter of Father Coughlin to the Pope's attention.

Kennedy was able to arrange a highly significant meeting between FDR and Pacelli, which improved America's relationship with the Vatican (traditionally viewed as anti-American). The meeting also led to the church leaning heavily on Coughlin to shut his mouth. Kennedy had proven his ability as a muscle man for FDR, and when Pacelli became Pope in 1939, Joe had a friend in the highest possible place.

A warm moment in a relationship that would sour; Kennedy shakes the hand of Roosevelt after becoming ambassador to the United Kingdom

Kennedy would develop very different views on how the United States should respond.

Kennedy had been insulted by the offer of the ambassadorship to Ireland, but saw the same role in the UK as a prime opportunity, and lobbied FDR strongly for the post. The president reportedly almost laughed himself out of his wheelchair when informed of the request, but Roosevelt eventually came to see the benefit of the idea. However, there was one very practical obstacle to the plan: Joe's bowed legs.

During the induction ceremony for the US ambassador, Kennedy would be required to wear breeches and silk stockings, and the president was aware of how ridiculous a figure he would cut in such a garb, given his bandy legs. Asking Kennedy to strip in his office, a potentially humiliating ordeal that Kennedy appears to have taken in good spirit, Roosevelt pointed out why the job could not be his. Undeterred, Kennedy asked for time to convince the British to alter their dress code and, impressed by his determination, the president agreed. With Kennedy given permission to wear regular trousers, the last obstacle had been removed, and the way was clear for Kennedy to take the next step in his climb to the top of the political ladder. He was unaware that it would be as high as he would ever reach.

An Irishman at the Court of St James's raised more than a few eyebrows in Britain, but the entire Kennedy family embraced the country. John F Kennedy became especially intrigued by the British aristocracy and would go on to affect some of the mannerisms of what he saw as a uniquely stoic class. His father, meanwhile, revelled in the access offered to him in his new role. The doors of London, closed to him as an Irishman, were all thrown wide open in his role as US ambassador. It was how Kennedy leveraged that access that was to cause problems.

Britain was divided into two camps as Nazi Germany continued its rise. On one side were those, including Neville Chamberlain, who believed an accommodation could be made with Hitler to prevent war. On the other side, headed by Winston Churchill, was the camp that believed war was inevitable and needed to be planned for as a matter of the utmost urgency. FDR was of a mind to follow Churchill, but Kennedy favoured Chamberlain's viewpoint.

> "Seeing his heritage as something that had held him back, he was eager to be accepted as a fully fledged American"

Kennedy's doubts over Roosevelt were by now strongly colouring his opinion of the president, and as early as 1938 Joe was considering making his own run for the White House in 1940, if FDR chose not to stand for what would be an unprecedented third term. Kennedy felt he had learned valuable political lessons from the campaign of Alfred E Smith, and that he had established credibility with his success at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Maritime Commission. The role of ambassador was now adding the finishing touch to a compelling curriculum vitae.

Others had noticed Kennedy's rise. The *Washington Post* suggested he had "an excellent chance to be the first Catholic president," but the fact that the words 'first Catholic' had to be included spoke volumes of the religious prejudice still present in America.

Kennedy's isolationist stance, however, was infuriating the president. "The young man needs his wrists slapped rather hard," FDR growled as Kennedy became increasingly drawn into the influence of Chamberlain and the so-called 'Cliveden Set'. Churchill saw this as nothing less than cowardice on Kennedy's part, while Joe fumed under the president's glare, and began to believe Roosevelt was a staunch anti-Catholic.

In the event, Roosevelt decided to run again, and Kennedy's support was less than committed. His eldest son, Joe Jr, had been elected as a delegate at the Democratic National Convention, and was agonising over which candidate to cast his vote for: Roosevelt or James Farley. His father, rather than asking his son to back the president, advised him to do what he thought best. Joe Jr voted for Farley,

THE IRISH PROBLEM

ALTHOUGH CHAFING UNDER THE 'IRISH CATHOLIC' LABEL, JOE SEEMED DESTINED TO PLAY A PART IN IRELAND'S FUTURE

Joe Kennedy, who had never even visited Ireland when FDR offered him the ambassadorship to that country, saw the job as a distinctly backward step, and one that would have kept him firmly bracketed by his heritage.

The president saw things differently, feeling that Kennedy had an obligation to help the land of his forefathers, and that he might be able to smooth the relationship between Ireland and Britain. Roosevelt would later give the opinion that Joe was "the only one who could straighten out the Irish problem."

In his later role as ambassador to the United Kingdom, Joe was in a position to help Anglo-Irish relations. Initially viewed with suspicion by the British, who believed that he might harbour a grudge because of the treatment of his ancestors, Joe instead became a useful political figure. The treaty he helped to negotiate between Britain and Ireland pleased neither side, though. The division of Ireland remained in place, with all the trouble that it would bring in later decades, and Britain lost access to three Irish ports. Winston Churchill commented on the treaty that: "many a ship and many a life were soon to be lost as the result of this improvident example of appeasement."

Pictured in 1938, Joe arrives in London with two of the sons he would dream of making president, John (left) and Joe Jr

Joe Kennedy is little more than a ghostly shadow of his former self as he is pushed in his wheelchair at Hyannis Port, in May 1964

Rose Kennedy was not only a loyal and supportive wife to Joe, she recognised the similarities in their relationship to a business partnership

but Roosevelt won easily. Joe Sr, meanwhile, had supported Roosevelt, but the situation was not clear-cut. It is likely he saw this show of support as paving the way for the president's backing of his son's anticipated run for the governorship of Massachusetts. Already, as he still held ambitions to reach the top of the greasy pole himself, Joe was looking out for the career of his eldest boy.

Whether any goodwill would spill down to the Kennedy boys was doubtful. It became more doubtful still when Joe Sr gave an interview to the *Boston Globe*. Predicting defeat for Britain, he declared that democracy was already dead in that country. FDR asked for Kennedy's resignation, and remarked to his wife that: "I never want to see that son of a bitch again as long as I live."

Joe Kennedy's hopes of reaching the highest office in the land had been ruined. America's subsequent involvement in the war would make isolationists appear hopelessly out of touch, although Kennedy believed it had shown how much of an American he had become, in putting his country's interests first.

With his personal ambitions shelved, Joe switched his attention to nurturing the careers of his two oldest boys, Joe Jr and John. Their war service (something that Joe Sr had, ironically, hoped to be able to avoid) gave them the credentials for high office, and on the death of Joe Jr, the mantle was swiftly passed to his younger brother, John. Joe Sr would remain a powerful figure in the background, and the political careers of John and his younger brother, Robert, would owe a lot to their father's political savvy and drive. His desire to see an Irish Catholic in the White House was, in the words of Thomas Maier, like "some ancient quest to crown a king."

"Kennedy's isolationist stance was infuriating the president"

He would see such a coronation when JFK was elected in 1960, but in December of the following year, Joe suffered a debilitating stroke. With limited ability to speak, he remained mentally alert and relished visits from his son, the president, but his ability to influence the world around him had ended.

"He's the one who made all this possible," John said after his last visit to see his father, "and look at him now."

© Getty images

PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY

AN ICONIC LEADER WHOSE TIME IN OFFICE WAS FRAUGHT WITH COLD WAR TENSION, 'JFK' REMAINS A FASCINATING FIGURE YEARS AFTER HIS UNTIMELY DEATH

Election night, Tuesday 8 November 1960. John 'Jack' Fitzgerald Kennedy waited for the voting results to come through on the television, his family sat around him in the living room of his brother's home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. The endless television interviews, broadcast debates, rallies and travelling had taken their toll on his health; he hadn't had a proper meal or a good night's sleep in two weeks, and now he was beyond exhausted. The endless lectures from his father, Joe, about image and how it didn't matter who you were, only what people thought you were, had started to grate on him. Even his wife, Jackie, normally a source of comfort, was starting to unsettle him - when more favourable results came in and she said: "Oh bunny, you're president now!" he quickly turned his head away from the television screen and looked at her with his tired eyes, replying: "No... no, it's too early yet."

After winning the industrial cities of the Northeast, doubt filled the cramped living room when the loss of the Midwest and the Rocky Mountain states came through on the broadcast. His opponent, Richard Nixon, was more experienced, had more supporters in the all-important South, and had been endorsed by the current president, war hero Dwight Eisenhower. He was the safe vote, while Kennedy was the young, energetic pretender. Kennedy could only hope and pray that he had done enough.

After the "longest night in history," as Jackie would later describe it, the call came in the following morning. Nixon had admitted defeat and sent a congratulatory telegram to Kennedy. It was one of the closet elections in American history; the final tally being 34,227,096 to 34,107,646 of the popular vote, with 303 to 219 of the electoral vote going to the young pretender. The bare facts say it was hardly a ringing endorsement of Kennedy, but given the experience and relative popularity of Nixon, it was a spectacular victory. Against the advice of his closet supporters, Kennedy visited Nixon in Florida on 14 November. Kennedy wasn't impressed. He silently listened to Nixon dominate what was meant to be a friendly conversation about the last few months, and wondered how a man like this had nearly won the presidency. As he clambered back onto his helicopter after it was over, he turned to an aide and said: "It was just as well for all of us he didn't quite make it!"

Kennedy's presidency would go down in history as the dawn of a new era. He changed the face of politics by courting the media and creating his very own cult of celebrity, inspiring hope through his charm and freedom through his liberal policies. He gave the US a renewed self-confidence through his tough reputation abroad, and after his brutal assassination in Dallas, his legacy would live on.

At the start of Kennedy's long fight for Democratic nomination in 1957, a reporter said that Kennedy was Washington's 'hottest tourist attraction'. It was widely rumoured he had an 'in' in *Life* magazine because of all the positive press he received there, and *The American Mercury* hailed him as the 'perfect politician'. Others were less convinced. "He'll never make it with that haircut," commented a prominent politician from New York.

It was true that Kennedy had his critics, but it was his deep connection with the media, getting his name in the public domain, and making sure that through his family connections it stayed out there in the best possible light, that made his political campaigns in the Fifties a success. The media was enamoured with

John 'Jack' Fitzgerald Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States, serving for almost three years

John and Jackie watching the America's Cup race

his good looks, beautiful wife and young family. He represented the American dream, descended from Irish immigrants and doing well through America's bounty to become a senator in the most powerful country in the world. He was the equivalent of an A-list celebrity on Capitol Hill, and he didn't mind the status, as he himself remarked: "This publicity does one good thing: it takes the vice out of vice-president." This wasn't to say that he was a shallow man who simply enjoyed the press for his own vanity; the press shots of him and Jackie with their children in Hyannis Port may have been doctored to fit the idyll of the perfect American family, but they do portray a genuine sentiment of love.

One of the most compelling stories that illustrates his character was not caught on camera, however. During his tenure in office, an aide was showing a group of disabled children around the White House when their wheelchairs prevented them from joining the rest of the tour group. Kennedy, late for a meeting, spotted them and came over to the children. The aide recalled: "He crossed the lawn to us, insisted on being introduced to each child and either picked up each limp, paralysed hand to shake it, or touched the child on the cheek. He had a different conversation with each child... the child's face radiated a joy totally impossible to describe." Kennedy's natural charm was rooted in compassion - something that the press could project, but not create.

The power over the press he possessed even allowed him to overcome the prejudices that some sections of American society held against him due to his Catholic upbringing; one writer remarked: "The stereotype of the Irish Catholic politician, the pugnacious, priest-ridden representative of an embittered, embattled minority, simply does not fit the poised, urbane, cosmopolitan young socialite from Harvard." This assertion was put to the test when he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for the presidency. Kennedy would need more than his easy smile, good looks and friends in the print media, as these alone would not be enough to go up against a seasoned politician like Nixon; he would need something that would allow him to reach millions and captivate them with his personality. He needed the power of television.

Kennedy's time would come during the first live television debates in September 1960, a contest that was watched by over 60 million people. Kennedy had taken a tour of the television studio beforehand, where his aides had worked out how the lighting, sound and shooting angles would benefit him; everything would have to be perfect if he were to shine on the box. Both candidates were offered the services of a CBS make-up artist - not that Kennedy needed it, as his skin looked tanned and healthy after campaigning in California. Nixon, on the other hand, looked pasty and sweaty, having only just recovered from a knee injury, but declined the make-up services. Ultimately, he got one of his aides to apply some make-up minutes before the broadcast to cover up his stubble, but coupled with his pale complexion, it only made him look ill and dirty. Kennedy received coaching from consultants to allow him to practise rebuking Nixon's comment, while maintaining eye contact with the audience straight down the lens.

"The media was enamoured with his good looks, beautiful wife and family"

JFK: president, statesman and American hero

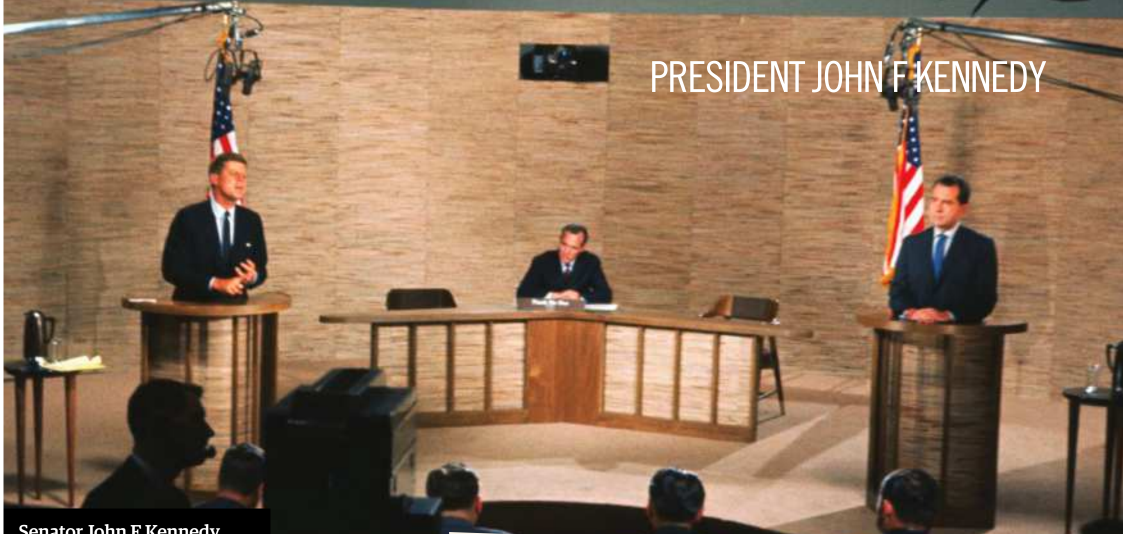
Nixon was confident he could wing it, with one commentator noting afterwards that: "Nixon was addressing himself to Kennedy - but Kennedy was addressing himself to the audience that was the nation." Kennedy chose a suit that contrasted well with the background of the set, while Nixon's blended horribly into the backdrop. Kennedy was prepared and ready; Nixon looked nervous and tired. The result was a popular victory for Kennedy, with one newspaper editor commenting: "The [television] medium is good to Kennedy and most unkind to Nixon. It makes Kennedy look forceful. It makes Nixon look guilty." Emphasising the differences in perception television

"ONE OF MY SONS WILL BE PRESIDENT"

Joe Kennedy famously made the above claim about his sons. He was a man who expected a lot from his family – after all, they were Kennedys, and thus destined for greatness. Born in 1888, Joe grew up in a well-established Catholic family from Boston. He worked in Hollywood as a film producer and then entered politics as part of the Franklin Roosevelt administration. He later became ambassador to Britain, famously saying the country was "finished" in 1940. He was renowned for his political connections, using them to see his children established among the elite of American society after the war. It was also rumoured that he had unofficial connections with the Mafia, using them as he used everyone else: to get more power and influence. He was a domineering and harsh father, especially when his family didn't meet his high standards, and infamously had his daughter, Rosemary, lobotomised because of her violent personality. He also 'vetted' husbands for his daughters, ensuring they all married into families that would benefit the Kennedy clan. His affairs with other women were legendary, estranging him from his wife, Rose. He was a pessimist and isolationist, weighed down with old prejudices of the Protestant-dominated middle class. Jack was none of these things, outgrowing Joe's outdated beliefs.

offered, the majority of those who heard the radio debate thought Nixon had won, while those who watched on television were inclined in favour of Kennedy.

Kennedy was the first presidential candidate to properly utilise the power of the media and the idea of looking 'right' to connect with audiences through the medium of television, and it paid out in dividends. Subsequent presidents and their PR teams would never forget it. To this day, the presidential debates are given the highest priority, with PR consultants spending hours coaching and teaching respective nominees when to smile, when to laugh and how to look, even down to the shoes and ties they're wearing. It was Kennedy's stunning victory and his associations with the press before and after the 1960 election that subsequent presidential campaigns modelled themselves on. The image of the man who would lead the American people was now just as important as the man's politics. But of course, looking right was only part of the story; Kennedy had to have the right policies to fully tap into the pool of voters. As influential columnist William V Shannon wrote: "Month after month, from the glossy pages of *Life* to the multicoloured cover of *Redbook*, Jack and Jackie Kennedy smile out at millions of readers; he with his tousled hair



Senator John F Kennedy and vice-president Richard Nixon during the second televised debate

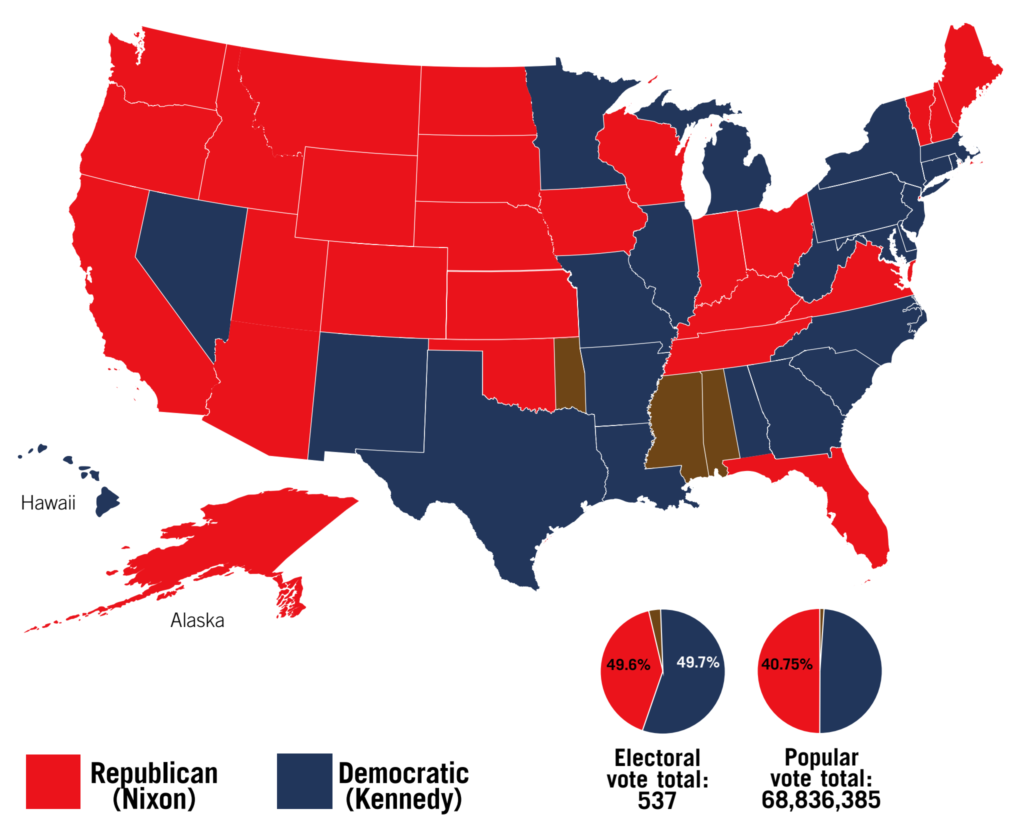
Spectators line the streets of Ireland to catch a glimpse of Kennedy

Presidential nominees Kennedy and Nixon smiling for the cameras prior to their first televised debate

HOW AMERICA WAS WON

THE CLOSE ELECTION THAT JFK MANAGED TO WIN

The presidential election of 1960 was one of the closest in American history. Richard Nixon, Kennedy's opponent, gained significant control over the American Midwest, a traditional Republican stronghold, and in California and Florida, which carried with it a large number of votes in the electoral college. Kennedy, however, seized control of Texas, a state with a large number of voters, through his running mate Lyndon B Johnson and the industrial heartland of America in the Northeast with the help of his father through his political connections with influential industrialists. One of the major battlegrounds was Chicago, Illinois, which held a large amount of supporters for Kennedy and Nixon. Controversies later emerged about Democratic mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley, rigging the Illinois vote for Kennedy after a conversation he had with Joe Kennedy and, apparently, the Chicago outfit. In the end, Illinois was won by a paper-thin margin of 8,858 votes.



and winning smile, she with her dark eyes and beautiful face... But what has all this to do with statesmanship?" Ostensibly, the answer could be found in his hard-nosed Cold War rhetoric, but there was another issue burning through America in the Sixties that Kennedy could not afford to ignore: the fight for civil rights.

By 1960, the civil rights movement under Martin Luther King Jr was worrying the Southern states, who were holding firm on segregation and humiliating the political community in America as a whole in the process. How on earth could a country that claimed to be the leader of the free world still instigate a policy that restricted, oppressed and otherwise degraded American citizens based on their skin colour? It was a question that was becoming urgent, with the broadcast media reporting all the sit-ins and protests of black citizens in the deep South to an anxious American public; the very people Kennedy would have to get on his side if he were to take the presidency and keep hold of it.

As the election loomed in the autumn of 1960, Kennedy was still looking weak on the civil rights issue. He was certainly more liberal than his opponent, but he didn't have anything of substance to beat him with. By coincidence, King was arrested on 19 October – a month before the election – while taking part in a sit-in protest. Kennedy pounced on it as an opportunity. He phoned the shaken Mrs King, saying: "I want to express to you my concern about your husband. I understand that you are expecting a baby, and I just wanted you to know that I was thinking about you and Dr King." It galvanised black voters, with King's father saying: "He can be my president, Catholic or whatever he is. It took courage to call my daughter-in-law at a time like this. He has the moral courage to stand up for what he knows is right." King himself was unconvinced. Despite these words, he was still not pushing civil rights; he was playing the political game. It was just words – words enough to capture the presidency, but words nonetheless.

King would call Kennedy's bluff in August 1963 after Kennedy's inaction, marching on Washington with thousands of supporters. Kennedy begged him not to, fearing the marchers would turn violent. But march they did, black and white, the largest demonstration to ever come to the capital, with King at the front of the huge procession, proudly proclaiming: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." Kennedy looked on open-mouthed; the rapture of the crowd hanging on King's every word was beyond impressive. He immediately invited King and his inner circle to the White House, offering refreshments and a promise to get things moving where he could on civil rights. It was probably a combination of Kennedy's own moral scruples and King's loud insistence that finally got civil rights on the right path, but

John F Kennedy in uniform, 1942

John and Jackie on their wedding day in 1953

The Kennedy family relax at their home in Hyannis Port

JFK with Martin Luther King and other delegates from the rally in Washington DC

SEGREGATED RULES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LAW NOW
DEMAND
VOTING RIGHTS NOW!

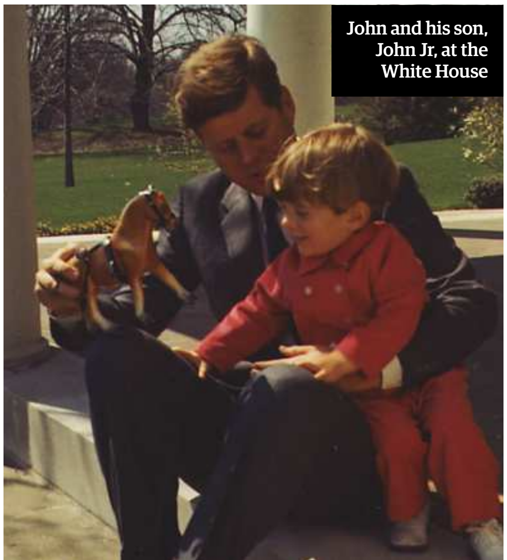
Over 200,000 protestors marched along the Capitol mall in Washington on 28 August 1963

Deep in thought while in transit in the 1960 US presidential campaign

inaction would still dog Kennedy's record on the agenda.

To say Kennedy was a mere political opportunist would be grossly unfair, however. He was a man of principles, and the treatment of black communities in the deep South sickened him. However, it is a myth that he was a radical activist of the civil rights movement; he was far too pragmatic for that. Actively supporting the civil rights movement more than he did would have destroyed his support in the South and make what Nixon would later call the 'silent majority' everywhere else uneasy. His presidency did not bring solid change, and his successor, Lyndon B Johnson, would do far more, but it was a rallying cry for a new beginning. By meeting King and publicly endorsing the ideal of civil rights for all, even if he did not actively support the campaign in practice, would give civil rights the national platform it needed, and Kennedy's own celebrity endorsement to bring civil rights to the top of the national agenda. As Arthur Schlesinger, a social commentator in the Sixties observed: "He had quietly created an atmosphere where change, when it came, would seem no longer an upheaval, but the inexorable unfolding of the promise of American life." Kennedy would not go eyeball-to-eyeball with civil rights, but he would with Communism. It was the realms of foreign affairs where he would make his stand, where there could be no comprise, and where the legend of Kennedy's confrontation with the Soviets would change the world forever.

Communism was not only objectionable as far as Kennedy was concerned but a moral evil. It stood against everything he believed about human rights and human dignity. The Communist leadership were godless, their state control oppressed its own people, and their vast armies oppressed the people of the globe; it was to be despised. When he made his inaugural address he spoke of not daring to "tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be employed." This was the hard line of the Cold War warrior – create the biggest conventional and nuclear arsenal available to scare the Communists into never attacking the free world, and Kennedy believed in it completely. He would go on to talk about the need for reconciliation, but warned against negotiating "out of fear." He had followed the line of Theodore Roosevelt, the man who flexed American muscle at the turn of the century: tread softly on the international stage, but carry a big stick.



John and his son, John Jr, at the White House

"Communism was not only objectionable to Kennedy but a moral evil"

Rhetoric would turn to action when Kennedy gave the green light to the ill-fated Bay of Pigs operation, later to be known as the 'undeniable fiasco'. It was the first major military undertaking of his presidency, but the plan was ill-conceived and flawed from the beginning. Even Kennedy talked about plausible deniability of the whole affair by its end. The plan was for the CIA to land thousands of military-trained Cuban exiles onto the Cuban mainland and, by proxy, enact a coup. It relied on Castro not being in full control of Cuba, although unfortunately for Kennedy he was. As the invasion party landed, Cubans loyal to Castro bombed and machine-gunned the exiles into the sea, causing horrendous casualties. CIA chiefs pleaded with the president to allow the US air force to support the exiles, and initially Kennedy was inclined to agree, saying: "I'd rather be called an aggressor than a bum." Soviet interest in the affair would cool his aggression, and after tense diplomatic negotiation he shied away from further intervention in case the Russians were "apt to cause trouble." It was seen as a betrayal by the CIA and the Cuban exiles, who died in their hundreds on beaches. Neither the CIA nor the exiles would forget it.

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion did not temper the attitudes of the president or his closest advisors; quite the contrary. The disaster convinced the Kennedy administration that the Communists needed to be taken seriously, as any more failures would risk goading their aggressive intentions. In the pressurised environment of the White House, straight-talking, hard-ball attitudes and the concoction of the 'red menace' frequently turned strategy into personal vendettas against the Communist leadership for the Kennedy family. Bobby Kennedy, Jack's younger brother and attorney-general for the American government, took the Bay of Pigs disaster as a personal slight. Castro had made the Kennedy family (and the US) look weak, and now he was going to "get him" by any means necessary, even commissioning a plan for an exploding seashell to be planted at Castro's favourite diving spot. Conversely, Jack didn't order a full invasion of Cuba, nor any provocative move in the region until it was absolutely necessary. In a famous comment made to an aide about the prospect of an American invasion of Cuba, he said: "The minute I land one marine we're in this thing up to our necks. I can't get the United States into a war and then lose it, no matter what it takes. I'm not going to risk a slaughter."

But Kennedy's caution was still infused with the influence of manful bravado inherited from his patriarchal family and the hawks in his own government, who were ever-ready to go toe-to-toe with the Communists. Ultimately, his refusal to 'blink' during the blockade of Cuba brought the world to the brink of nuclear war: for 13 days in 1962, he held the fate of billions in his hands in order to prove to the Russian Premier Khrushchev that when it came to American security there could be no compromise. As with the Bay of Pigs, it was also intensely personal. Kennedy felt deceived by the Soviets, who were talking to him about nuclear disarmament while installing medium-range missiles on the Cuban mainland. He called the Soviets "barefaced liars" and hurled expletives whenever he heard the names of Castro or Khrushchev during meetings in the run up to the blockade. They had made him look foolish and soft on the Communist problem, and the blockade represented the most he could do to confront them without tipping the world into a nuclear holocaust.

Rational thinking gave way to zero-sum thinking on the nature of the international Communist threat after the Cuban Missile Crisis, even if by this point impartial evidence suggested that Communism was not only far weaker, but also hopelessly divided among its global constituents. To Kennedy, however, ever-ready to fight the good fight, the threat was still real, and it was engulfing south-east Asia. He ordered more military advisors into Vietnam, as well as the creation of a new fighting force designed to combat Communist insurgents at grass-roots level: the Green Berets.

He publicly endorsed the Diem regime in South Vietnam led by Ngo Dinh Diem, despite private reservations about their effectiveness and cruelty to their own people. As the war intensified, Diem, a stanch Catholic, was drawing ever more criticism from his own people, the majority of whom were Buddhist. After brutal crackdowns on the Buddhist community at the beginning of 1963, monks set themselves on fire in the middle of a busy street in Saigon in protest. The response by one of Diem's closet advisors, his sister-in-law Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, was heartless. She told a CBS film crew that the Buddhists had just "barbecued" themselves, and next time she would provide the mustard. For Kennedy, a man who lived shoulder to shoulder with the media, this was a disaster. The regime that America was supposed to be protecting was in fact a cruel dictatorship. Kennedy's troops remained in Vietnam even after the brutal events of 1963 as Diem's regime may have been harsh, but as far as Kennedy's administration was concerned, at least it wasn't Communist.

The memory of Kennedy's legendary stand-off with Communism would linger in the halls of the White House after his death. No future president would dare look weak in front of the Communist, prompting a military invasion of Vietnam by Johnson and a perception that any failure to contain Communism across the globe was a de-facto failure of the current American

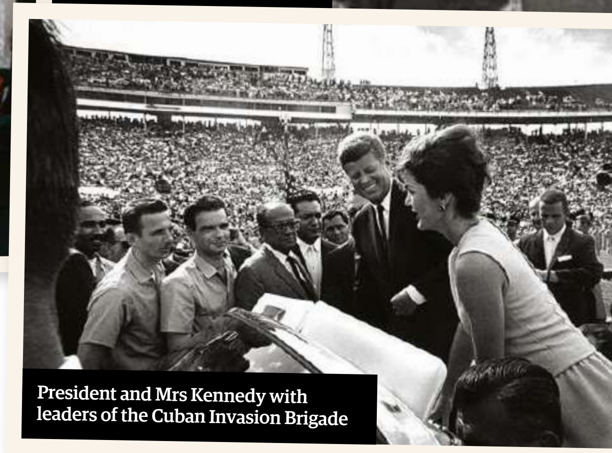
Kennedy looks deep in thought as he awaits developments in the Cuban crisis that could have escalated to nuclear war

Kennedy children visit the Oval Office

President Kennedy presiding over a meeting with senior White House officials during the Cuban Missile Crisis

Kennedy meets with US Army officials during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962

Kennedy signs the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in the White House Treaty Room on 7 October 1963



President and Mrs Kennedy with leaders of the Cuban Invasion Brigade

“His image as young, energetic and tough chimed well with the mood of the US”

administration. Debates about whether the Vietnam War would have been conducted differently if Kennedy had been at the helm endure. Kennedy balked at appearing weak in front of the Communists, but he was a far more able negotiator than his successors and, it is said by some, would have brought Vietnam to a peaceful conclusion far quicker and with fewer casualties. But part of Kennedy's success was due to his international grandstanding. His image as young, energetic and tough chimed well with the mood of a US that wanted an assertive nation and cut away from the stagnation of the Eisenhower years and the defeats under Truman. It is unlikely Kennedy would have ordered a full withdrawal at Vietnam, but part of his enduring persona has, like the issues surrounding civil rights, created a myth that things would have been very different – and a lot better – had he survived.

The bleak days of November 1963 would haunt America forever. Kennedy's funeral took place on 25 November, three days after his assassination. As his funeral procession made its long march up to St Matthew's Cathedral, it was accompanied by Black Jack, a riderless horse symbolising the loss of a great leader. When his casket was brought out after the service, foreign dignitaries including Charles de Gaulle of France and thousands of American citizens watched in silence. Troops of the United States Navy brought the casket down the steep steps, and as it reached the bottom, Jackie Kennedy knelt down and whispered to her son, John Jr: “John, you can salute your daddy now and say goodbye to him.” Author William Manchester noted: “Of all of Monday's images, nothing approached the force of John's salute… it was heart-wrenching.” In summing up the day's events, columnist Mary McGrory wrote of “grief nobly borne.” Kennedy's final resting place was the Arlington National Cemetery – as befitting an American hero.

On hearing of Kennedy's death, British prime minister Harold Macmillan said that Kennedy embodied “all the hopes and aspirations of this new world.” His influence continues to be felt; Barack Obama's ‘Hope’ campaign for a new beginning in the US was influenced by Kennedy's own in 1960. Kennedy was a man who could be admired, followed and respected. His death shocked everyone, and his boundless potential and hope for a better and more peaceful world was lost forever, along with the man who he might have become.

Just months before his untimely death, John F Kennedy speaks as president at a press conference

© Getty images

Mixing youthful looks with unbending convictions, Robert F Kennedy was a polarising figure who worked tirelessly for the causes he believed in. Religion and family were his early touchstones, but he later became a passionate champion of underdogs, including immigrants, minorities and workers

THE LAST IRISH PURITAN

ABRASIVE, HARD-HEADED AND DEEPLY IDEALISTIC, BOBBY KENNEDY BELIED HIS BOYISH LOOKS TO BECOME ONE OF THE TOUGHEST POLITICIANS IN AMERICA

None of the Kennedys went on so profound a political journey as the former altar boy whose angelic looks masked a steely conviction and a street-fighter's toughness. Single-minded and aggressive right at the start of his political career, Robert F Kennedy eventually mellowed through experience, much of it deeply painful, to become something quite unexpected by the end – a true champion of workers' and civil rights.

Historian Thomas Maier summed this up as a transformation from "the zealous 1950s McCarthyite… to the reflective, ecumenical progressive of the mid-1960s." Tragedies played their part in this transformation, none more so than the assassination of his brother, John, but Bobby also learned from less obvious personal experiences.

As with most of the Kennedys, religion was an important rock in Bobby's life. Perhaps more than any of his family, he drew his strength and purpose from the Catholic Church, and this coloured his views on politics from the start. His daughter, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, spoke of the "profound link between my father's religious principles and his political principles." Religious convictions fed the passion with which he pursued his political goals, but they did not always lead him in the right direction.

Joseph Kane, while running JFK's campaign for Congress in 1946, spotted the ability of the young Bobby, but the Kennedy patriarch, Joseph Sr, was firm in his assertion that it was not yet Bobby's time. Joe Sr recognised the qualities of his third son, and also saw much of himself in the combative youngster, but there were significant differences as well. While his father strove for assimilation and acceptance, Bobby was more interested in bringing others over to his way of thinking, giving his life something of a missionary element.

A POLITICAL JOURNEY

BOBBY'S POLITICAL CAREER SAW HIM REACH ALMOST AS HIGH AS HIS BROTHER

1948

Behind the Iron Curtain
The anti-religious posturing of communism makes a deep impression on the young Bobby Kennedy when he visits Hungary.

1952

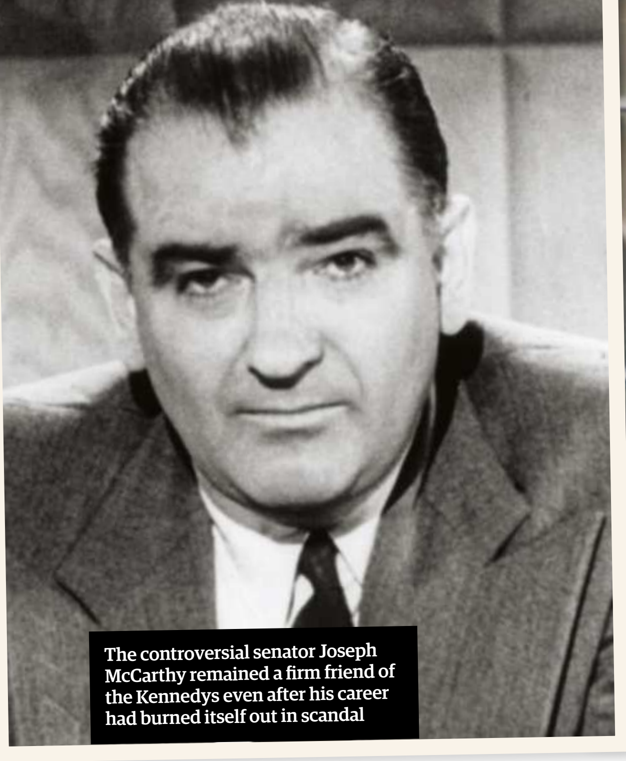
The campaign manager
His political abilities having been spotted years earlier, Bobby gets his chance when he is called in to run JFK's Senate campaign.

1952

The committee man
Senator Joe McCarthy gives Bobby a job in his Senate committee, but it quickly turns out to be a poisoned chalice, as McCarthy loses his grip on reality.

1957

The Enemy Within
Following a tempestuous period on another Senate committee, Bobby writes a book on the extent of corruption found in labour management.


The controversial senator Joseph McCarthy remained a firm friend of the Kennedys even after his career had burned itself out in scandal

The strong bond between Bobby and his older brother, John, saw them become closer than ever during Bobby's time as attorney general

While still a student at Harvard, Bobby engaged in a heated argument with the radical priest Father Leonard Feeney, who preached anti-Semitism and the inferiority of other religions. Bobby, unable to accept this hate-filled version of the religion he loved, decided to tackle the priest head on, demonstrating the pugnacious side to his character that would come to define him and win him enemies as easily as it won him friends.

After his religion, communism was the second absolute in Bobby's life. He inherited his father's distaste for its anti-religious doctrine, but then went further. During a visit to Hungary in 1948, he spoke out against the imprisonment of Cardinal Josef Mindszenty. In turn, the Hungarian authorities viewed Bobby with suspicion, believing he was a spy for Cardinal Francis Spellman. A visit to central Asian countries in the mid-1950s saw Bobby again appalled at the naked hostility to religion, and he took to carrying a copy of the Bible in one hand as a visible show of dissent.

> "He had been initiated into the Kennedy political machine, although not at his request"

By then, he had been initiated into the Kennedy political machine, although not at his request. Bobby was a 26-year-old lawyer at the Justice Department when his brother's 1952 campaign for the Senate began to go off the rails. Heavy-handedness by father Joe had forced campaign manager Mark Dalton to resign, and Bobby was called up to step into the role. "I don't know anything about Massachusetts politics," he protested. "I don't know any of the players and I'll screw up." Bobby's doubts were unjustified, as he proved to have a natural flair for politics. As Joe Kennedy Sr's star descended, the Kennedy brothers began to forge their own bond in a working relationship that would take them to the very top of the political tree.

A willingness to work whatever hours were necessary marked out Bobby's approach to the job. His personality caused friction, and he quickly gained a reputation for a hard edge that could cross over into pure unpleasantness. His single-mindedness prompted governor Paul Dever to dub him "the last Irish puritan," but his older brother came to rely on his energetic, aggressive sibling.

Following John's election to the Senate, Bobby needed a new position. His father, still pulling strings in the background, reached out to Senator Joseph McCarthy. The controversial figure was already a firm friend of the Kennedys, his Irish background, Catholicism and rabid anti-communism trumping his Republican affiliation. Bobby had considered McCarthy as a potential godfather for his first child, and he had also arranged for him to speak at the University of Virginia, where Bobby had studied law.

Work on Senate committees gave Bobby experience, but also revealed that his passionately held convictions could trip him up if provoked

1960

Presidential campaign
Bobby becomes his brother's campaign manager again, this time in a bid for the White House that would ultimately see JFK elected president.

1961

Top lawyer in the land
Despite his own worries about perceptions of nepotism, Bobby is named attorney general, making him the leading lawyer in the United States.

1964

A run for the Senate
Devastated by his brother's assassination, Bobby decides to continue his life of public service and wins a seat in the Senate in his own right.

1968

Presidential ambition
After months of deliberations, Bobby puts himself forward as a candidate for the Democratic nomination, and his campaign is going well before another assassin strikes.

Following Joe Kennedy's approach, a job offer was extended to Bobby – he could be deputy counsel on McCarthy's Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, working underneath chief counsel Roy Cohn.

Friends warned Bobby against taking the job (Kenny O'Donnell pointed out that McCarthy could prove Bobby's mother a communist by his way of reasoning), but Bobby was eager to accept.

It did not take long for him to realise his mistake. He clashed badly with Cohn, who thought nothing of smearing opponents with lies, and the increasingly outrageous claims coming out of the committee quickly convinced him to resign. Respect for McCarthy saw Bobby return in 1954, as Democratic counsel to the committee, but by then McCarthy was beginning to spiral out of control and a censure from the Senate convinced Bobby to part ways again.

Despite the disaster of his time with McCarthy, however, Bobby never lost his affection for the man. He remained convinced that the crusade against communism was a just one, and was deeply shaken by McCarthy's subsequent descent into alcoholism and early death.

By 1960, Bobby was acting as his older brother's campaign manager once more, but this time in a bid for the White House. The major obstacle in John's way, it seemed, was his Catholicism, and Bobby was appalled at the levels of bigotry heaped on his brother, his family and his religion. Particularly shocking was the way regions that had expressed solid support for John would turn against him when religion was wheeled into the spotlight. From West Virginia, Bobby phoned his brother to explain one such crumbling of support: "The people who voted for you in that poll," he explained bitterly, "have just found out that you're a Catholic."

A 1962 goodwill tour of Japan brought adulation but also angry protests from communist-leaning students who resented Bobby's championing of the cause of democracy

Religion remained a rock for Bobby, seen meeting the Pope in 1962, even though later events would cause him to question some elements of his faith

"The brothers were drawing closer in their political partnership"

Bobby's political judgement now let him down. He advised his brother to simply ride out the tide of religious prejudice, to allow it to quietly dissipate of its own accord. Whether this was because he could see no way of tackling the problem effectively or if he genuinely believed it would become a non-factor if left alone is unclear. There is evidence that he felt personally beaten by the problem, exhausted by the pressures of the campaign, and baffled that religion could be such a divisive issue. Despite his father and many other advisors echoing Bobby's sentiments,

John ignored the advice and instead took the problem on in a series of speeches that emphasised his family's commitment to the United States and the sacrifices they had made.

JFK's political instinct proved to be the sharper, and he was elected to the Oval Office, fulfilling his father's mission to get a Kennedy into the top job in the land. The brothers were drawing closer in their political partnership, and their father insisted that Bobby be brought in as attorney general. Bobby, although flattered, believed there might be allegations of nepotism, but the appointment was made. Sure enough, there were those who viewed Bobby as part of the 'Irish mafia' of aides with which Kennedy surrounded himself, but John attempted to defuse the criticism in his own way, with a light-hearted quip: Bobby had been appointed to give him "a little legal experience before he goes out to practise law."

Nevertheless, his advice would prove increasingly useful, although John still did not always heed it. On the question of an ambassador to Vietnam, for instance, Bobby was opposed to the appointment of Henry Cabot Lodge Jr, whom John had defeated in 1952 and again in 1960, when Lodge had been the Republican vice presidential candidate. Bobby believed Lodge was lazy and would not help the situation developing in Vietnam. Kennedy chose not to heed this advice, and Bobby was proved right - Lodge achieved little, if anything, in the position.

Bobby often adopted a role more like that of a big brother, seeking to protect John when events

THE ENEMY WITHIN

BOBBY'S IDEALISM GOT THE BETTER OF HIM WHEN INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION IN LABOUR MANAGEMENT

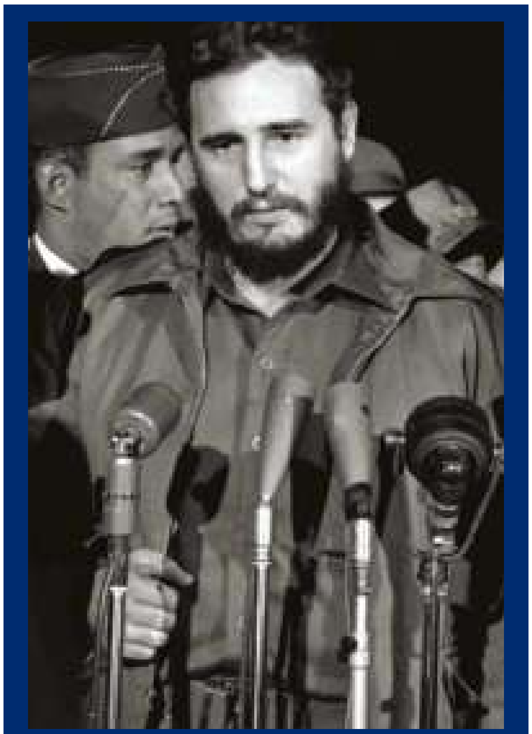
Following his time on Joseph McCarthy's chaotic Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Bobby had another mixed experience on the Select Committee on Improper Activities in Labor and Management. Looking into corruption and infiltration by organised crime, Kennedy would eventually write a book, *The Enemy Within*, based on the committee's findings.

With Bobby acting as chief counsel, more than 1,500 witnesses were called, with attention initially focusing on the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, one of the most powerful trade unions in the nation.

Bobby would draw criticism for his approach to the gathering of testimony. He was outraged that so many witnesses chose to invoke the Fifth Amendment (343 declared their unwillingness to give evidence against themselves in a criminal case), and was accused of bullying. His inexperience was highlighted in his poor handling of witnesses, and some found it easy to provoke the young man into explosions of righteous indignation and anger. His behaviour was so unseemly, his father grew concerned that he might prove to be a negative influence on his older brother's run for the White House.

The firebrand lawyer was actually used by the committee head, John L McClellan, as a lightning rod, attracting criticism from labour unions and keeping McClellan out of the firing line. A major scandal involving Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa captured headlines in the early days of the committee, but it fizzled out despite two extensions to continue its investigations, and Bobby gratefully moved on to run his brother's presidential campaign.

The shattering blow of his brother's assassination almost broke Bobby's will, but he forced himself to continue for the sake of his family and his country



THE COLD WARRIOR

NOTHING WAS OUT OF BOUNDS WHEN IT CAME TO BOBBY KENNEDY'S PASSIONATE HATRED OF COMMUNISM

Robert Kennedy's intense dislike of communism was something of a blind spot for the idealistic young man who found himself advising and supporting his older brother in the role of president. Recognising the danger represented by the Soviet Union, and fully accepting the concept of the 'domino theory', in which one country lost to communism would inevitably lead to the fall of others, he became committed to resisting its advances at any cost.

Following the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Bobby found himself in very dark territory. He was instrumental in setting up 'Operation Mongoose', a concerted effort to destabilise the regime of Fidel Castro in Cuba by any means necessary. The CIA was actively encouraged to dream up schemes and plots, and even the assassination of Castro himself was on the table.

Carried away with the possibilities of regime change, Bobby became enamoured of covert operations and special forces, but even the new man at the head of the CIA, John McCone (installed at Bobby's recommendation) thought assassination was going too far. In his single-minded approach, however, Bobby saw no reason to moderate his aims. "I do not know if we will be successful in overthrowing Castro but we have nothing to lose in my estimate," he wrote in a private note.

conspired against him. The disastrous Bay of Pigs affair, where a badly orchestrated 'invasion' of Cuba went farcically wrong, was such an event. Although Kennedy had inherited the plan from the previous administration, its failure was an inauspicious start to his presidency, and Bobby worked hard to try to limit the damage. He helped raise a $2.9 million ransom for the release of prisoners, and saw their extended period of captivity (they were not released for 20 months) as a stain on his brother's presidency. Disenchantment with the military advice given prior to the operation also led the brothers to lean more heavily on each other, and increasingly to trust their own instincts. Bobby was more firmly established than ever in his brother's closest circle of advisors.

The problem with Cuba would rear its head again in the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. By then, Bobby's views on communism had hardened still further. A goodwill tour to Japan had been marred by protests by communist-leaning students, prompting Bobby to make the dismissive comment: "If they're communists, you can't get through to them." And yet, with the enormity of the situation unfolding around them, both brothers recognised that they needed to keep cool heads to avert a disaster of unimaginable proportions.

Bobby's usual bull-headedness would not be the way to proceed, and the Kennedys also learned to be wary of advice from the military, many of whom were pushing for an invasion of Cuba. It was by being more measured that the crisis was averted.

Bobby then found himself drawn into the growing issue with the civil rights movement, but he recognised that his developing sympathies with its cause were a potential political liability for his brother. He was even strongly considering stepping aside so as not to hamper the 1964 campaign.

Those concerns became moot after the assassination of JFK. Temporarily bereft, Bobby chose to view his political life as a form of public duty - something he owed to his fallen brother and to the nation. There was briefly a possibility that Lyndon Johnson might choose him as a running mate for the 1964 election, but the two had never got on, and Johnson was not keen. Instead, Bobby turned attention to the Senate.

The old Kennedy triumvirate of father Joseph and sons John and Bobby had been shattered by his father's stroke and his brother's assassination, but politics was still a family affair, and brother-in-law Stephen Smith was brought in as campaign manager. With immigration reform a key campaign issue, and with Bobby's camp working hard to help minorities in New York (including Puerto Ricans and African Americans) to register, he carried the day, although his success was attributed partly to sentimentality over his brother and Johnson's victory in the presidential election.

© Virginia Guy / Stringer / Bill Eppridge / The LIFE Picture Collection / Getty Images

Bobby still held on to his religion as a comfort and moral compass, but his acceptance of it appeared to have been changed. A fatalistic attitude was perhaps inevitable given the level of tragedy he had witnessed, but he still was unable to separate his work from his beliefs. "It is not realistic or hard-headed to solve problems and take action unguided by ultimate moral aims and values," he stated. "It is thoughtless folly."

Now something of a political outsider, a stark contrast to when he was working alongside his brother, Bobby became intensely concerned with social injustice. A trip to South Africa in 1966 was followed by a meeting with the Pope, in which Bobby stressed the evils of apartheid. Bobby urged greater compassion in society, and the question now was whether he saw himself as a presidential candidate. After wrestling with the question for months, he finally declared his candidacy for the Democratic nomination on St Patrick's Day, 1968.

The atmosphere was tense. Martin Luther King Jr was murdered days later, and Bobby spoke darkly of how Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who had killed his brother, had "set something loose in this country." Bobby was building his campaign on an appeal to the underdog - minorities and immigrants and the underprivileged. He had plenty of enemies. Liberals mistrusted his aggressiveness and tendency to authoritarianism, white Southerners disliked his role in the civil rights movement, and Protestants were wary of his faith. A man who was in some ways a candidate who jumped into the murky waters of 1968 on impulse proved that his plan could work when minority groups united to sweep him to victory in the California primary. Having acknowledged his supporters with gratitude, Robert F Kennedy was shot dead by a Jordanian who wanted to strike a blow against American support for Israel.

Shortly before he was shot, Bobby had been in a reflective mood, well aware of the dangers that he was facing. "It is less important what happens to me," he mused, "than what happens to the cause I have tried to represent."

> "Bobby was building his campaign on an appeal to the underdog"

The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr was yet another blow to Bobby, who was just embarking on his campaign for the Democratic nomination at the time

Although he had never got on with his brother's vice president, there was talk that Bobby might be selected for the same role in Lyndon Johnson's 1964 campaign

During his campaign for the Democratic nomination, Bobby Kennedy built a power base among a diverse range of minorities, who saw him as the champion they needed

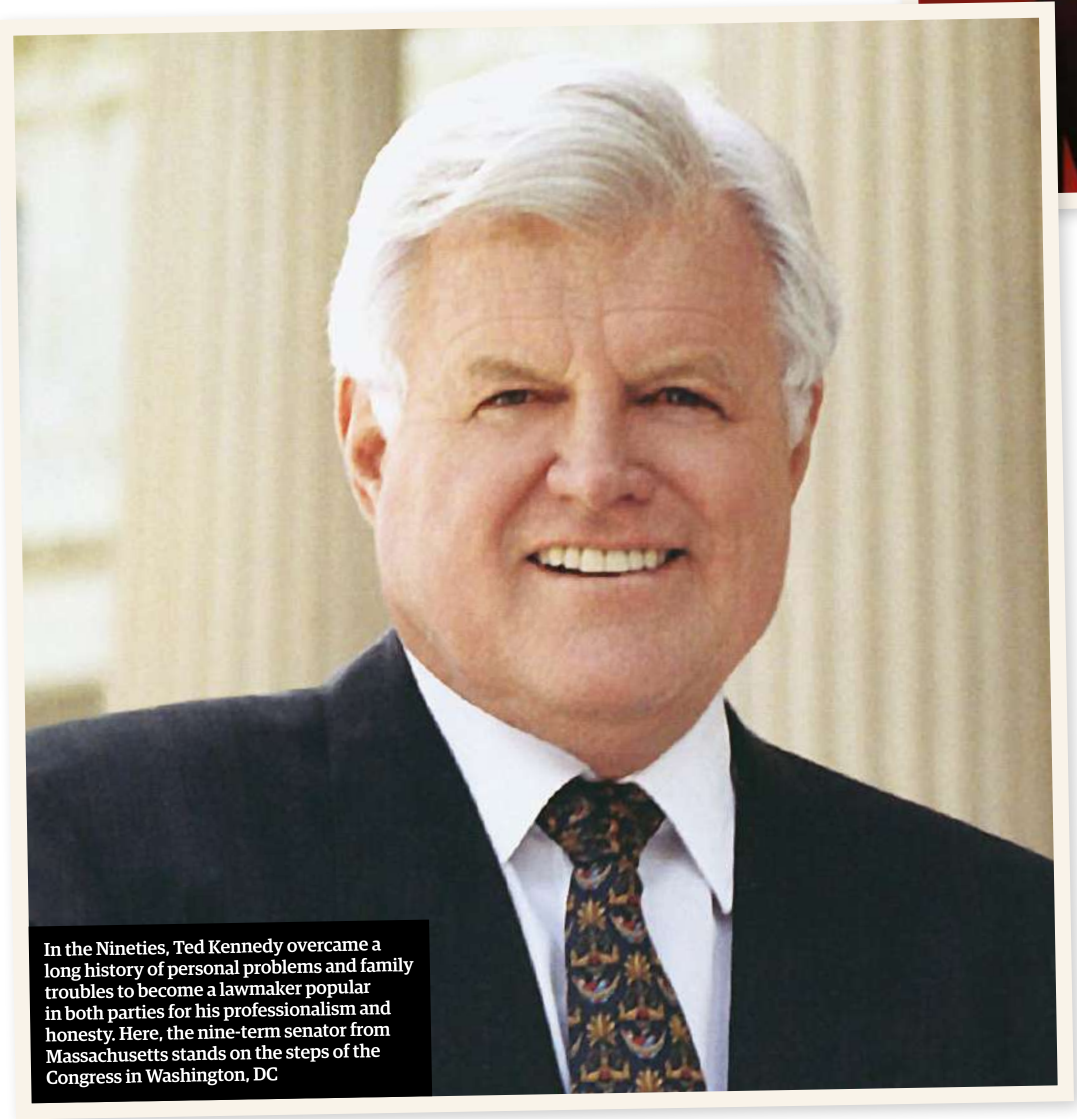
THE LIBERAL LION OF THE SENATE

SERVING AS SENATOR FOR 47 YEARS, TED KENNEDY HAD AN EVENTFUL CAREER IN POLITICS

The younger brother of President John F Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy, Senator Edward Kennedy was elected nine times as a Democratic senator from Massachusetts. Born in 1932, Kennedy entered the Senate in 1962 at the minimum legal age of 30, inheriting the seat of his brother, the president. At the time of his death from cancer on 25 August 2009, he had served as senator for 47 years, the fourth-longest record of continuous Senate service in the history of the United States.

Though his career was dogged by scandal, and his chances of a run for the presidency dashed by it, Kennedy accumulated a remarkable record of service and legislation. For more than four decades, he stood for the 'liberal' and 'progressive' policies associated with the Democratic Party of the Sixties - even when, as in the years of the Reagan and George Bush presidencies (1980-1992), these policies were out of step with the political mood and the public's favour. In the Nineties, however, the presidency of Bill Clinton (1992-2000) amounted to a partial vindication of Kennedy's political principles. So too did the presidency of Barack Obama.

His father had already steered Ted's older brothers, John and Robert, into the Senate, and before Ted reached the minimum age of 30, had identified a seat for him. In November 1962, Ted easily won a special election to fill his eldest brother's empty Senate seat in the Massachusetts delegation. At first he kept a low profile in a Democratic Party that contained a powerful senior element of Southerners, most of them suspicious of the social liberalism and pro-civil rights sentiment of North-eastern Democrats like the Kennedys. He also lacked the charisma and authority of John F



In the Nineties, Ted Kennedy overcame a long history of personal problems and family troubles to become a lawmaker popular in both parties for his professionalism and honesty. Here, the nine-term senator from Massachusetts stands on the steps of the Congress in Washington, DC

A LONG CAREER IN THE SENATE

POLITICAL MILESTONES IN ONE OF THE SENATE'S LONGEST CAREERS

7 November 1962

Senator from Massachusetts
In November 1962, Ted Kennedy, having reached the minimum legal age of 30, won his eldest brother the president's Senate seat.

30 June 1968

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965
In June 1968, shortly after the assassination of Robert Kennedy, America's immigration system became subject to the 1965 Act.

23 December 1971

The 'War on Cancer' begins
Signed by President Nixon in December 1971, the National Cancer Act initiated the federally funded 'War on Cancer'. Deaths from cancer began to fall.

26 July 1990

The Americans With Disabilities Act
This act prohibited discrimination on grounds of disability, and required employers to provide 'reasonable accommodation' and accessibility to disabled employees.

This ramp and fishing platform meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act and may be used by anyone.
Please respect the desire of people with disabilities to fish on the fishing platform.

In his first term as a senator, Ted Kennedy presents the J P Kennedy Award, named for his grandfather to President Lyndon B Johnson

Kennedy, or the intense intellectual drive of Robert Kennedy, now attorney-general.

Bereft after John F Kennedy's assassination in November 1963, and badly injured in a plane crash in June 1964, Kennedy returned to the Senate in January 1965, walking with the aid of a stick. His assassinated brother's heir, President Lyndon Johnson, was attempting to steer a watershed piece of civil rights' legislation, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, through Congress. Campaigning in the 1960 election, President Kennedy had committed himself to ending legalised discrimination against non-white voters through the notorious 'Jim Crow' laws of the Southern states. Yet in office, President Kennedy had acted cautiously. The Democratic Party rested on the alliance of traditional Southern Democrats with more urban and liberal Northern Democrats. While the flag of the Alabama Democratic Party of Alabama was emblazoned with the words 'White Supremacy', the Democratic Party in the Kennedys' home state of Massachusetts was socially liberal.

To work around opposition from Southern Democrats, Johnson, a master tactician, had drawn Republicans to vote for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "We have lost the South for a generation," Johnson is reported to have said after signing the Act. He now assembled a similar coalition for the Voting Rights Act. One of the legal mechanisms that kept black voters out of the polling booths was the state and local poll tax. Instead of banning such taxes as discriminatory in effect as part of the Voting Rights Act, Johnson, to secure the necessary votes, watered down the ban to a recommendation that Robert Kennedy, as attorney-general, would challenge the poll tax at the state and local level.

For Ted Kennedy, however, Johnson's strategy was an inadequate compromise. Taking up the position that would become a permanent roost,

> "For Ted Kennedy, Johnson's strategy was an inadequate compromise"

HEALTHCARE: THE PATH NOT TAKEN

40 YEARS BEFORE 'OBAMACARE', TED KENNEDY PROPOSED UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

The passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2009 under President Barack Obama was a watershed in the long struggle to ensure that Americans, who live in one of the richest societies in human history, have adequate health care regardless of their economic status, like the members of other affluent societies. Ted Kennedy lived to see a president willing to push through legislation, but he died before its problem-filled and unpopular implementation. The Trump administration has cancelled the Affordable Care Act, and has yet to propose an alternative.

What would have happened if Congress had listened to Ted Kennedy four decades earlier? In August 1970, Kennedy introduced into the Senate a bipartisan bill proposing European- and Canadian-style single-payer universal national health insurance, funded from taxes and federal revenue, and requiring no point-of-use payment. In the parlance of Congress, the bill 'died' and was not voted on.

In the next decades, Kennedy devised and supported numerous bipartisan measures to give health coverage to the weakest and most vulnerable. He was prepared even to work with Richard Nixon, the Republican president against whom he might have run in 1972. Many of these laws were folded into the Affordable Care Act in 2009.

18 August 1990

Ryan White CARE Act

The Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act was named for Ryan White, an Indiana teenager who had contracted HIV through a blood transfusion. President Obama reauthorised the Act in 2009 (right).

21 November 1991

Civil Rights Act of 1991

Signed into law by President George H W Bush, this Act increased the rights in federal law of plaintiffs in discrimination cases.

4 February 2009

State Health Insurance Program

Devised to aid poor families, this was the largest taxpayer-funded health insurance for children to be passed since Lyndon B Johnson's establishment of Medicaid in 1965.

26 March 2009

Edward M Kennedy Serve America Act

In March 2009, the Senate passed a bill to expand the Americans program of public service, and renamed it after Ted Kennedy's disabled son.

Senator Ted Kennedy and his first wife, Joan Bennett Kennedy, attend Fourth of July celebrations with John F Collins, mayor of Boston from 1960 to 1968

SPEN
SAME
BILLION
60
40
20
0

Kennedy speaks to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees about his healthcare bill, June 1971

on the left wing of the Democratic Party, he almost succeeded in securing an amendment to the Act. Kennedy took a similarly unyielding position on the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, a comprehensive revision of the United States' historically pro-European immigration laws. The proponents of the bill, Johnson and Kennedy among them, insisted that the new immigration system would not alter the demography of the United States. The Act, Johnson said, was "not a revolutionary bill." In fact, it radically altered the American demography and accelerated what sociologists dubbed 'the browning of America'. The long-term political consequences were not entirely favourable to the Democratic Party.

"A personal catastrophe wrecked his chances of a run for the presidency"

Following the assassination of Robert Kennedy during his run for the Democratic nomination in the 1968 elections, it was natural that the dreams of Democratic voters now attached themselves to Ted, the last survivor of the glamorous Kennedy brothers, and a symbol of the optimism and idealism with which the Sixties had begun. But Ted was still young – only 36 years old. He was unsure of his support in the Democratic Party, and fearful that he too would die from an assassin's bullet. The hostility of Southern delegates and an uncertain response from Senator Eugene McCarthy persuaded Kennedy not to step into the nomination race.

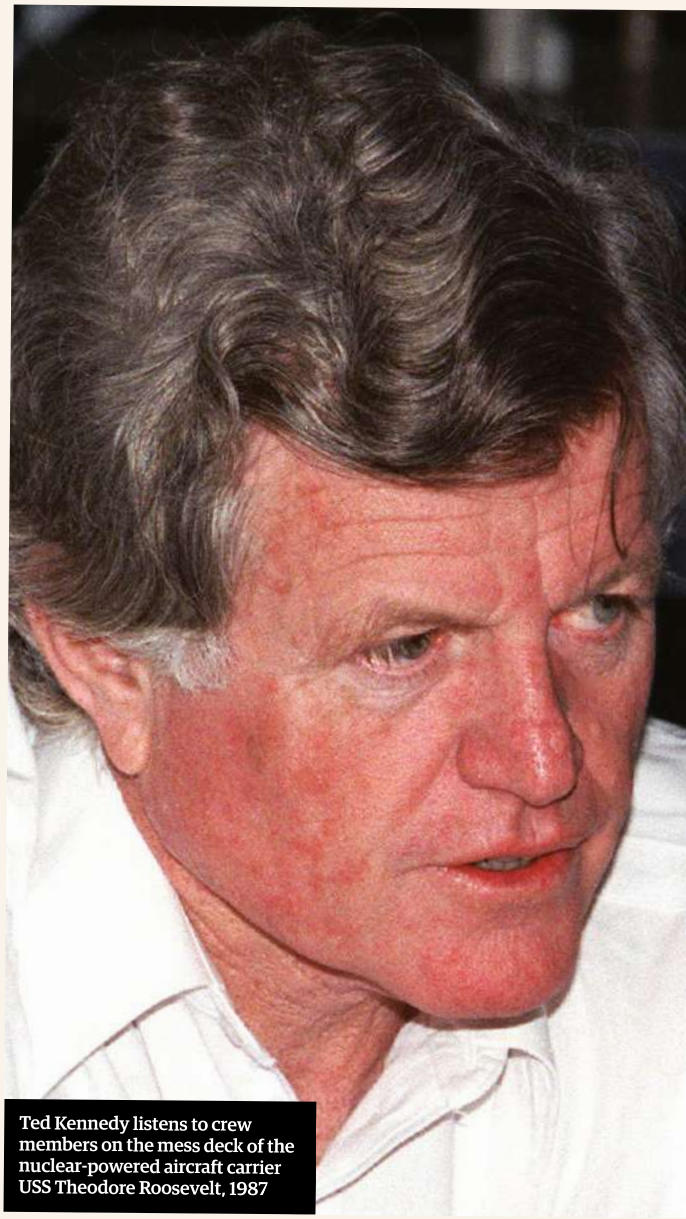
The Democrats chose Hubert Humphrey, but he lost the election to Richard Nixon. With the Democrats now riven by defeat and division, Kennedy now appeared to be the natural candidate for the 1972 presidential election. In January 1969, he solidified his authority by becoming the youngest Senate Majority Whip in American history. But then Kennedy engineered a personal catastrophe that wrecked his chances of a run for the presidency: the death of Mary Jo Kopechne at Chappaquiddick.

Although polls showed that Kennedy was the preferred Democratic nominee for the 1972 election, and although rivals of the eventual nominee, George McGovern, asked Kennedy to run, he chose not to. He also rebuffed McGovern's invitation to run as

The Labor Hall of Honor
INDUCTION
SENATOR
EDWARD M. KENNEDY

12 March 2015: Secretary of Labor Tom Perez posthumously inducts Ted Kennedy into the Labor Hall of Honor

Ted Kennedy visits President Jimmy Carter in the White House, 26 September 1976. To their mutual frustration, neither was able to work happily with the other on healthcare reform



Ted Kennedy listens to crew members on the mess deck of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, 1987

McGovern's vice-presidential candidate. In the election, McGovern, with Kennedy's brother-in-law Sargent Shriver as his running mate, lost to Richard Nixon.

Meanwhile, Kennedy began the long work that would occupy the rest of his life, sitting on Senate committees and negotiating bills across party lines. The first significant fruit of this work came in August 1970, when Kennedy, now a member of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, introduced a bipartisan bill for universal, European-style healthcare. The bill did not pass into law, but Kennedy had played a crucial role in initiating the nearly five-decade effort to give all Americans health insurance.

Through the 1970s, Kennedy pushed for health insurance legislation. He worked successfully with Richard Nixon's Republican administration to secure insurance through employers with the Health Maintenance Organization Act of 1973, but their collaboration on a more expansive bill in 1974 failed at the committee stage. He also secured the passage of the National Cancer Act of 1971 with Jacob Javits, a moderate Republican senator from New York. He failed, however, to work constructively on health care reform with a fellow Democrat, President Carter.

While Kennedy struggled privately in the Seventies with divorce, alcoholism and his sons' health troubles, in public he was an ever-present fixture of political life, and invariably at the frontline of the issues of the day, at home or abroad. After Watergate, Kennedy was vital to the passage of the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974, which helped to restore public trust after Nixon's very scandalous departure from office. He became a strong proponent of school-bussing, and a ceaseless international campaigner for peace and nuclear disarmament.

When the 1980 election came around, Kennedy threw his hat in, despite his prior insistence that he had abandoned his presidential ambitions. This was highly unusual, as Carter was running for re-election as a sitting president. But Carter was a weak and unpopular president, with an approval rating as low as 28 per cent. In polling, Kennedy had a two-to-one advantage over Carter. Still, Carter was confident. "If Kennedy runs," he said, "I'll whip his ass."

Carter was lucky in that Kennedy ran a poorly organised campaign, and one even less impressive than his own. Kennedy's candidacy revived the media's interest in Chappaquiddick and what it said about Kennedy's character.

In committee: Senate Committee on Armed Services members Ted Kennedy and Carl Levin listen to testimony on the situation in Afghanistan, 27 March 2008

Kennedy lost the Iowa primary, traditionally a bellwether for the final outcome of a presidential race, but he remained defiant.

"Now we'll see who is going to whip whose what," he promised. But his fundraising was in freefall, and despite the Kennedy family name, he lost three primaries in New England. After the Super Tuesday primaries, when eight states voted on a single day, Carter had won in 24 states, and Kennedy, though he had carried California and New York, had won in only ten states. Kennedy pressed on towards the Democratic convention in New York City in August, in the hope of engineering a procedural change that would allow convention delegates to vote individually, rather than according to their state's primary result, but Carter's supporters blocked this strategy on the first night of the convention.

Kennedy withdrew his candidacy that night. He spoke the following night, delivering perhaps the greatest speech of his career, an oratory rich in allusions to Roosevelt, John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr, protesting the moral worth and enduring potential of the liberalism that had begun in the Thirties with Roosevelt and expanded in the Sixties with Johnson's Great Society programme: "the dream shall never die." The delegates gave him a 30-minute ovation. On the third night, Kennedy arrived after Carter's acceptance speech, and though he shook Carter's hand, he did not raise Carter's arm in the traditional show of party unity.

Carter lost the election to Ronald Reagan, in part because he had not recovered the votes of Kennedy supporters. Kennedy had contributed to Carter's defeat, and for much of the Eighties it seemed that the big-state liberal dream had indeed died. Reagan had campaigned on a promise to revive the economy with supply-side economics and cuts in funding for government programmes. The public re-elected him in 1984, and also supported his uncompromising stance towards the Soviet Union.

In the Senate, Kennedy became Reagan's leading Democratic opponent. Retaining his support on the Democratic left, Kennedy campaigned for women's rights and gay rights, and against the apartheid state of South Africa. He worked with Republicans like Orrin Hatch to secure funding for AIDS treatment, even while opposing Reagan's military adventures in Central America and his expansion of America's nuclear programme.

TED KENNEDY IN THE WORLD

THE LAST OF THE KENNEDY BROTHERS BECAME A GLOBAL FIGURE, AND OFTEN INVOLVED HIMSELF IN FOREIGN CONTROVERSIES

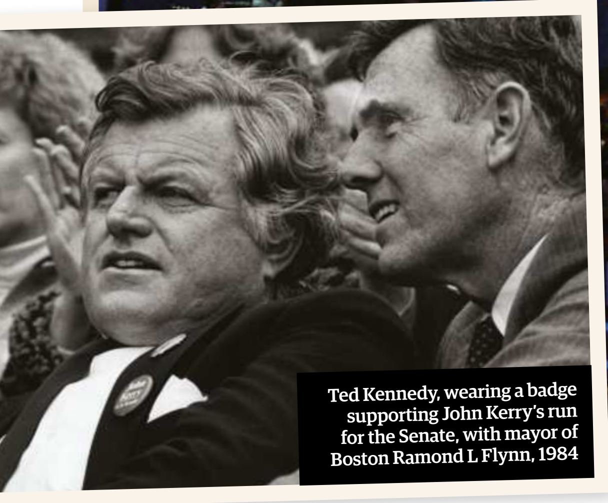
Posted to France during his Army service, Ted Kennedy became a global figure as the last of the Kennedy brothers, and as an advocate for causes in which he believed. As a member of the world's most famous family of Irish descent, he unsurprisingly made his first international intervention in Northern Ireland. In 1971, he criticised the British government for its repression of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, and even advocated the expulsion of Protestants from Northern Ireland. Kennedy became a lifelong advocate of the Irish Republican cause.

In the same year, he rejected President Nixon and Henry Kissinger's strategy of Vietnamisation, the extrication of American forces from Vietnam by building up their South Vietnamese allies. He also condemned Nixon's Cold War-influenced support of Pakistan, which had invaded Bangladesh and committed war crimes, including the massacre and expulsion of civilians.

Three years later, in 1974, Kennedy travelled to the Soviet Union. He met with the Soviet president, Leonid Brezhnev, and also with dissidents. He was instrumental in securing the emigration of the cellist Mtislav Rostropovich, an opponent of the Communist regime. In Russia, Kennedy called for the extension of the 1963 American-Soviet treaty partially limiting nuclear testing. He became a strong campaigner for nuclear disarmament, and by doing so helped to make possible the 1996 treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, between the United States and the Russian Federation.

D M.
KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

Ted Kennedy speaks during the first night of the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado



Ted Kennedy, wearing a badge supporting John Kerry's run for the Senate, with mayor of Boston Ramond L Flynn, 1984

Kennedy's staff prepared a plan for his candidacy in 1984, but Kennedy chose not to run, and supported Walter Mondale, whom Reagan easily defeated. Amid the chaos of Kennedy's private life, the Democrats recovered control of the Senate in the 1986 midterms. Kennedy, by now an accomplished legislative strategist, managed to secure passage for the COBRA Act of 1986, which extended employers' health-insurance obligations. His most notable contribution, however, came in his challenge to the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, a personal assault on Bork's fitness for office that was a new low point in American political life.

> "Ted Kennedy and his staff authored some 2,500 bills in the Senate"

Kennedy was at the nadir of his career. Even the voters of Massachusetts believed by a margin of two-to-one that he had not been entirely truthful in his testimony at his nephew's rape trial. Yet it was during the trial that Kennedy began his recovery, and the rehabilitation of his name. He married again, to Victoria Reggie, a divorced mother of two who helped him gain control of his drinking. When his mother, Rose, died in 1995 at the age of 104, he began to attend Mass regularly. When his nephew, John F Kennedy Jr, was killed in 1999 in a light aircraft crash, it was Ted, once the baby of the family, and later the wayward son, who emerged as the white-haired patriarch who spoke at the memorial service.

Kennedy's return to form coincided with the George W Bush administration and the War on Terror. While many Democrats rejected the legality of Bush's victory in the 2000 election, Kennedy worked closely with the new president on education reform, leading to the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001. He also worked with Senator John McCain on the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, which – though it did not reach a vote – became a template for subsequent attempts at immigration and border control reform. Kennedy remained, however, deeply opposed to the Bush administration on the invasion of Iraq, and was one of 23 senators who opposed the Iraq War Resolution of October 2002.

With Obama's passage of the Affordable Care Act of 2009, Ted Kennedy's vision of 1970 for universal healthcare finally came true. By then, however, Kennedy was dead. After diagnosis of a brain tumour in May 2008, Kennedy underwent an operation and intensive chemotherapy. He managed to endorse Barack Obama's candidacy at the 2008 Democratic convention in August 2008, but required a wheelchair for Obama's inauguration in January 2009. Retreating from public life, and reducing his Senate commitments, he died at home in Hyannis Port on 25 August 2009.

Ted Kennedy and his staff authored some 2,500 bills in the Senate. Of these, more than 300 passed into law, as did another 550 bills that he co-sponsored. John McCain called him "a legendary lawmaker… I have the highest respect for him… he has been a skilful, fair and generous partner." Kennedy was concerned with the welfare of the poorest and weakest Americans, and consistently believed in the liberal vision that the government could allay their needs. With charm and a tight grasp of Senate procedure, he managed to remain one of the most left-voting members of the Democratic Senate, while becoming one of the most productive cross-party legislative collaborators. His passing marked the end of an era – the era of the Kennedys.

© Aurora Photos / Pictorial Press Ltd / Alamy

TRIUMPHS & TRAGEDIES

Kennedy accomplishments versus the Kennedy curse

68 THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE KENNEDY LEGACY
THROUGH EVENTS THAT SENSATIONALISED THE KENNEDY NAME, THEIR LEGACY REMAINS AT THE HEART OF AMERICAN HISTORY

74 THE KENNEDY SHOOTING STAR
KATHLEEN 'KICK' KENNEDY WAS HEADSTRONG, VIVACIOUS AND GONE TOO SOON AT THE AGE OF JUST 28

80 THE HIDDEN KENNEDY
THE TRAGIC LIFE OF ROSEMARY KENNEDY, WHICH INSPIRED CHANGES IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS MENTAL DISABILITIES

86 A DARK DAY IN DALLAS
THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY SHOCKED THE WORLD AND WENT DOWN IN AMERICAN HISTORY

94 THE MOST VULNERABLE OF THE KENNEDYS
THE KENNEDY DYNASTY HAD MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF BOTH TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY, AND BOBBY WAS NO EXCEPTION

98 THE SOCIAL REFORMER
HOW TED, THE YOUNGEST KENNEDY SIBLING, ACHIEVED SO MUCH YET BECAME SUCH A DIVISIVE FIGURE

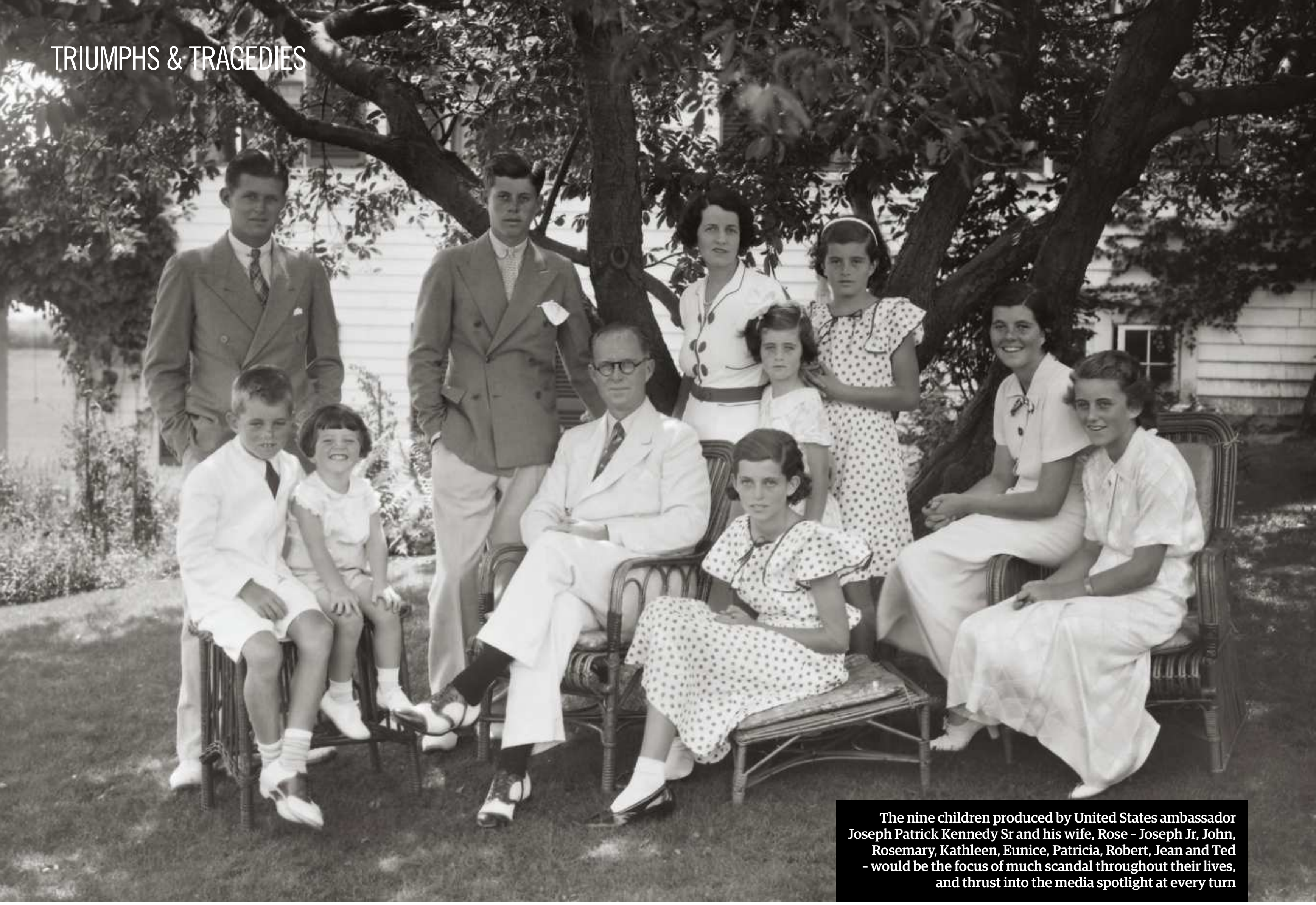
104 GRACE AMID TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY
JACQUELINE KENNEDY BROUGHT ELEGANCE TO THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE EXPANDING THE ROLE OF THE FIRST LADY

98

80

74

86



The nine children produced by United States ambassador Joseph Patrick Kennedy Sr and his wife, Rose - Joseph Jr, John, Rosemary, Kathleen, Eunice, Patricia, Robert, Jean and Ted - would be the focus of much scandal throughout their lives, and thrust into the media spotlight at every turn

THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE KENNEDY LEGACY

FOREVER IMMORTALISED BY THE EVENTS THAT SENSATIONALISED THE KENNEDY NAME, THEIR LEGACY REMAINS AT THE HEART OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Prominent in politics, public service and business, the Kennedy family has been the closest thing the US has ever had to royalty. Only until recently (2011) had a Kennedy been in office every year since 1947. The descendants of Irish Catholic immigrants who fled to Boston after the Great Famine, the Kennedy legacy thrived, producing a president, three senators, an ambassador and multiple other representatives, both at the federal and state level, epitomising the 'American Dream' for the aspiring and upwardly mobile. But with great success came great travesty, and the family faced many euphoric highs and devastating lows in the public eye - so much so that the myth of a family curse was born out of the Kennedy family's many years of sorrow and heartache.

But long before the days of the rumoured 'Kennedy Curse' there was much for the family to celebrate, beginning in 1849 when Patrick Kennedy, the third-born son of local Irish farmers James Kennedy Sr and Maria, fled from a poverty-stricken farming town in County Wexford, Ireland, and emigrated to East Boston, Massachusetts. The same year he arrived in the US, he married Bridget Murphy. They had their last of five children, Patrick Joseph 'PJ' Kennedy, in 1858. Just ten months later, the 35-year-old father of four died from Cholera.

PJ bloomed into a wealthy businessman and political party representative, who married Margaret Augusta Hickey and produced four children. Their first child, Joseph Patrick, was born in 1888, and despite being the descendant of an Irish immigrant, triumphed against the odds and graduated from the prestigious Harvard University in 1912 with a degree in economics. Two years later, already a successful entrepreneur and the youngest bank president in America, he was married to Rosemary Elizabeth Fitzgerald after a courtship of several years. Together the pair created the Kennedy unit many people associate with the infamous family name today.

But despite a promising start with two healthy sons, Joseph Patrick Jr and John Fitzpatrick, Rose and her first daughter, who she named after herself, experienced great tragedy. In 1918, Rose Marie 'Rosemary' was born with learning difficulties as a result of being starved of oxygen during the first moments of her life. When Rose went into labour, the nurse forced the baby back into the birthing canal to await the doctor who was busy attending to other patients in the area as a result of the influenza breakout. Such practices meant that the first of the female Kennedy siblings, Rosemary, was born mentally challenged.

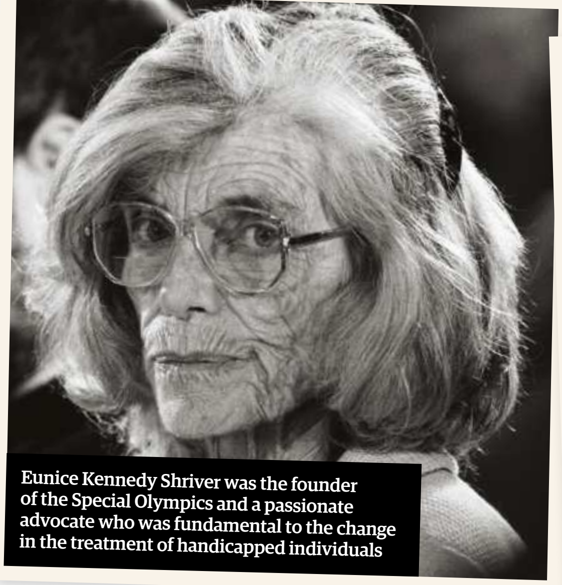
Rose gave birth to six more healthy children. Nonetheless the eldest daughter's increasingly erratic behaviour and inability to live up to the expectations the Kennedy parents placed on their children, was somewhat troublesome for her father, who later feared that Rosemary could put his son's path to political greatness in jeopardy. In 1938, Joseph's political career peaked when President Franklin Roosevelt appointed him United States ambassador to the Court of St James's. The pair had met after World War I had commenced. Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the Navy, and Joseph, an assistant manager of a Bethlehem Steel shipyard in Massachusetts (which provided materials to make transports and warships), became close allies, and their friendship had deepened by Joseph's loyalty to Roosevelt when he campaigned for and won presidency in 1932.

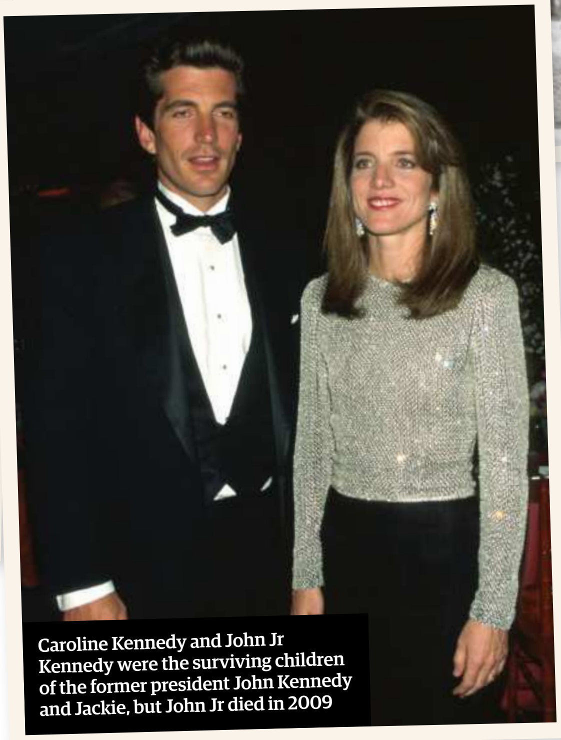
Joseph's new role in the UK meant he was the president's representative, and while at first his charm was appreciated by the British people, his isolationist ideologies soon made him an undesired politician. When Joseph urged that America should stay out of the troubles brewing between the UK and Germany under Hitler's reign, the press painted him in an unflattering light as a potential president. After war became an inevitable solution to the mounting tensions between the UK and Germany, Joseph was forced to resign from his post as it became clear that he was out of tune with the American president's policies. His dreams of becoming president of the United States were dashed, and the floodgates for tragedy in the Kennedy dynasty opened.

At the age of only 23, Rosemary was lobotomised by order of her father. The procedure, carried out by Dr Walter Freeman and James Watts failed, leaving her unable to speak clearly and with the mental capacity of a two year old. Her father sent her to a psychiatric hospital in upstate New York where her family were prevented from visiting her for decades by Joseph. With his bid for presidency now dashed, it was Joseph Patrick Jr who became his father's next big hope for a life of presidency. A US Navy bomber pilot, he died in an aircraft explosion in 1944 at the age of 29.

In 1946, the JPK Jr Foundation was established. The first charity of its kind, it focused on caring for the mentally handicapped. Eunice Kennedy was made a trustee in 1947. In 1948, Joseph and Rose's daughter, Kathleen Kennedy Cavendish, died in a plane crash over France. Following his younger brother's death, John F Kennedy became the subject of his father's presidential expectations. It was an expectation that would not fail. But first John would go on to triumph in the world of writing before he triumphed the world of politics. In 1957, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book *Profiles in Courage*. In January 1961, John became the 35th president of the United States.

US ambassador Joseph Kennedy was the first Kennedy to become a successful international politician. He represented President Roosevelt to important UK officials, such as Prime Minister Winston Churchill


Eunice Kennedy Shriver was the founder of the Special Olympics and a passionate advocate who was fundamental to the change in the treatment of handicapped individuals


Caroline Kennedy and John Jr Kennedy were the surviving children of the former president John Kennedy and Jackie, but John Jr died in 2009

> "The pair created the Kennedy unit many people associate with the infamous family name today"

As a triumphant Robert Kennedy was being ushered out the rear exit of the Ambassador Hotel following his 1968 win of the California presidential primary election, he was shot with .22 revolver by Sirhan Sirhan

John Kennedy's assassination while riding in a presidential motorcade in Dealey Plaza was perhaps one of the most shocking events witnessed by America and experienced by the Kennedy family

HUMAN REMAINS

The son of Robert F Kennedy, David Kennedy's untimely death at the age of 28 was a tragic accident as a result of heavy drug use

In perhaps what was one of the most prominent events in American history, the 43 year old had won the country's hearts and the right to sit at the head of the government. Following what had been decades of bad luck, it seemed as though their lives were at a turning point. John was the youngest-ever elected president in the country's history, as well as the first and to date only Roman Catholic to occupy office. His leadership style made him one of the greatest presidents the country has ever seen as he championed the country in a race to become key players in scientific, political and humanitarian issues. He had married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier in 1953, and with two children in tow the pair were the epitome of a younger and fresher face to the White House, despite rumours that John was a serial philanderer.

John's first great triumph as president of the United States was the creation of the Peace Corps, a volunteer programme for young American volunteers, whose role it was to travel to countries abroad in an effort to promote world peace and friendship on behalf of America. John also pushed for as much as $9 billion from Congress to fund the space programme. While Neil Armstrong did not land on the moon until 1969, it was under John's reign that such a prospect became a possibility. When America was on the brink of a nuclear war in 1962, a peaceful resolution was reached between the US and Cuban leaders because of John, and in the face of a major crisis, he emerged a global hero.

John wasn't the only Kennedy trying to improve the world in which they lived. In 1961, his younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, championed the creation of the President's Panel on Mental Retardation. Chaired by a panel of 26 members, the board were in charge of overseeing six task forces that had been instructed with conducting an 'intensive search for solutions' to the problems experienced by the mentally challenged. The President's Panel played a significant role in the way that the mentally handicapped were cared for, creating a shift from institutionalisation to communal integration that rippled throughout the world. Also a longtime advocate for children's health and disability issues, thanks to the struggles she had watched her sister, Rosemary, endure, Eunice was a key founder of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development within the National Institutes for Health in 1962. She also created 'Camp Shriver', a summer camp for children with mental disabilities. Funded by the PJK Jr Foundation, it opened its doors to dozens of young people aged from six to 16 from local institutions and agencies.

But arguably the biggest tragedy to occur in the Kennedy legacy came on 22 November 1963, when after only 1,036 days in office, 'JFK' was assassinated. In broad daylight he was gunned down as he rode through the packed streets of Dallas, Texas, in an open-top car next to his beautiful wife. He was shot twice – once in the

back and once in the head. The First Lady had to endure the sickening tragedy of having her husband's brain blown across her lap when lone-wolf sniper Lee Harvey Oswald killed the president in an assassination that still creates debates more than half a century on. The public were aghast with horror; death had come for another Kennedy, and it was still hungry for more.

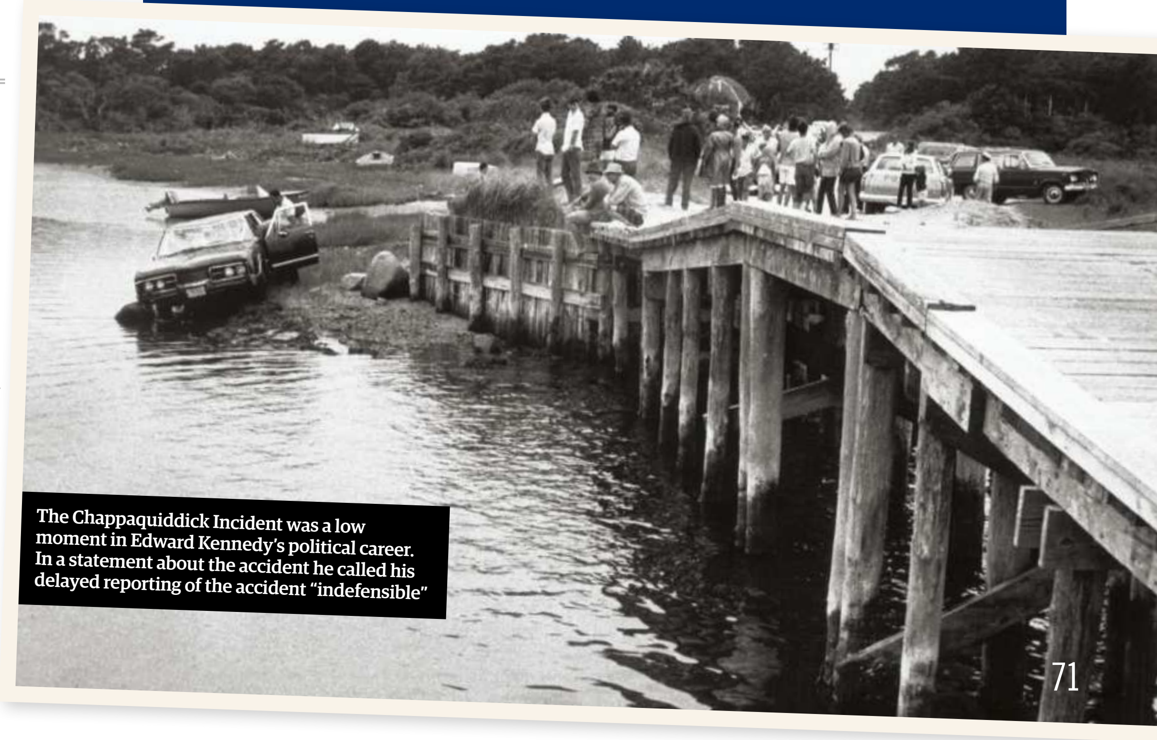
> "Death had come for another Kennedy, and it was still hungry for more"

1964 was a bittersweet year for the Kennedys with the Civil Rights Act passed by John's successor, Lyndon Johnson. As the default leader of the US, he asked Congressmen to vote for it as a tribute to their late leader, who originally proposed the bill and dedicated much of his final few months alive working to make it a reality. It was a significant act passed too late for John to relish the triumph. That summer, the youngest Kennedy child and Massachusetts' Democratic Party Senator Edward 'Ted' Moore, cheated death when his plane crashed in an apple orchard in Massachusetts. While Edward's life was spared, his pilot and female aide were killed. But Edward paid heavily for the incident, spending six months in hospital recovering from chronic back problems, which

THE MURDER OF MARTHA MOXLEY

A KENNEDY WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF A 15-YEAR-OLD CONNECTICUT SCHOOLGIRL

In October 1975, Martha Moxley was found dead in her Connecticut home in Belle Haven where both Thomas and Michael Skakel, the nephews of Robert F Kennedy's widow, Ethel Skakel, lived with their family. The night Martha was last seen, 30 October, friends had spotted her kissing Thomas. She was last seen with him in the Skakel backyard. The following day, the young girl's body was found beneath a tree in her backyard. Next to her body lay the shattered pieces of a broken golf club, which the autopsy showed had been used to bludgeon and stab her to death. The club was traced back to the Skakel home. However, no one was charged, and for decades the case languished. Over the years, both brothers repeatedly changed their stories, and a former student from the brothers' school later testified that Michael had bragged: "I'm going to get away with murder. I'm a Kennedy." Police became convinced Michael was the killer, and in January 2000, following an 18-month investigation, a warrant for Michael's arrest was issued, and he surrendered to police. On 7 June 2002, Michael was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 20 years behind bars. After multiple appeals, in October 2013, Michael was granted a new trial by a Connecticut judge, who ruled that his attorney had failed to adequately represent him in 2002. Michael was released on bond for $1.2 million. In December 2016, the Connecticut Supreme Court reinstated his murder conviction, but this decision was reversed in May 2018. As of February 2019, the case has been thrown out by the US Supreme Court.



The Chappaquiddick Incident was a low moment in Edward Kennedy's political career. In a statement about the accident he called his delayed reporting of the accident "indefensible" plagues him for most of his life. Following in his older brother's footsteps in almost every way, in 1968 State Senator Robert Kennedy was also assassinated, this time by 24-year-old Sirhan Sirhan, a Palestinian/Jordanian immigrant. The assassination was an event broadcast to the world on television screens just moments after Robert had triumphed the California presidential primary election in Los Angeles. His 12-year-old son, David, with whom he shared a uniquely close bond, watched on in horror from their family home as the news was broadcast that his father had been shot. Robert died the following day from the injuries that he had sustained. The news of his father's death hit David particularly hard, and he began to dabble in drugs to ease his pain.

Elsewhere in the world, the Kennedy siblings were making history and headlines. Eunice's work helping to nationalise what was called the Special Olympics had paid off. After a press conference in March, when Eunice and the Chicago Park District announced plans for their joint venture - the first Olympic games for children with intellectual disabilities - the specially coordinated day for disabled athletes had arrived. It was held that summer in Soldier Field in Chicago.

In the summer of 1969, Edward's life was once again plagued by tragedy when a car crash that became known as the Chappaquiddick incident killed his 28-year-old passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne, when he accidentally drove his car off the one-lane bridge in Edgartown, Massachusetts, and into a tidal channel. Freeing himself from the sinking vehicle, he left the scene and did not report the accident to the police for ten hours. Meanwhile, Mary Jo died inside the car that was submerged under the water in the tidal channel. Edward pleaded guilty to a charge of leaving the scene of a crash causing personal injury. He later received a two-month suspended jail sentence.

The Seventies were a difficult time for Edward's nephew, David, who was also involved in a car accident in 1973 that left his then girlfriend paralysed. His brother, Joseph Kennedy II, was charged with reckless driving. As a result of the accident, David sustained an injury to his back that left

"Elsewhere in the world the Kennedy siblings were making history and headlines"

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

AS WELL AS A KENNEDY WOMAN, ROSE WAS ALSO GIVEN THE TITLE 'PAPAL COUNTESS'

Rose Kennedy was considered a model mother with a distinctive method of keeping tabs on her nine children through an index filing system. A devoted mother, she was also a loving wife. In the late Thirties, her husband was named US ambassador to Britain, and in March 1939 while living overseas, the Kennedy family was invited to attend the coronation of Pius XII. There, they enjoyed a private audience with the new Pope. Throughout her life, religion, family and politics were the areas she dedicated most of her time to. Her devotion to the Church meant that in 1951, she had the rare title of papal countess conferred on her by the Vatican. The prestigious title was bequeathed to her in recognition of her "exemplary motherhood and many charitable works." She was only the sixth woman from the United States to have the title bestowed upon her by the Roman Catholic Church, and the only woman to be honoured by Pope Puis XII in his 19 years as the head of the Roman Catholic Church. It was a title that pleased her greatly, and she often made use of it in her religious circles, mentioning it at church ceremonies and special events when she travelled to predominantly Catholic countries in Europe.

JFK saved the day when he reached a compromise with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in October 1962 that avoided a heavily anticipated nuclear war

As a result of a lack of understanding his daughter's learning difficulties, Joseph Kennedy had his eldest daughter, Rosemary, lobotomised in the hope it would cure her, but it left her permanently disabled

Just moments after Robert had triumphed the California presidential primary election in Los Angeles, he was killed

John F Kennedy Jr and his sister, Caroline Kennedy, who is former United States ambassador to Japan

him dependant on painkillers, a dependency that soon turned into an addiction. David also dropped out of Harvard, and in two years suffered two overdoses and had various brushes with the law, including driving under the influence. But in 1984, he completed a month-long stay in rehab, and the future looked brighter for once. However, after checking in to room 107 of the Brazilian Court Hotel on 19 April, the renowned party boy spent the next few days dancing and taking drugs. Clearly still reeling from his father's death, David's destructive path eventually led to his death. On 25 April, just six days after his arrival at the hotel, staff found him dead on the floor of his suite from an overdose of cocaine, Demerol and Mellaril.

Tragedy was still to come for his mother, Ethel, who lost a second son in 1997. On New Year's Eve 1997, while on the Aspen Mountain in Colorado, Michael and other members of the family were playing football while on skis. Information regarding whether the party were warned to cease the activity is unclear, but suddenly in the middle of the afternoon, Michael hit a tree. Unprotected by a helmet or any safety gear, he was taken to hospital and pronounced dead less than two hours later. As the millennium approached, the tragedies that devastatingly impacted the Kennedy family showed no sign of coming to an end. In 1999, John and Jackie's only son, John Kennedy Jr, his wife and sister in law died in a plane crash over the Atlantic Ocean.

While the Kennedy dynasty continues to live on in America in the 21st century (with Caroline Kennedy former United States ambassador to Japan as the only surviving child of John and Jacqueline), the name is forever plagued by the highs and lows of the Kennedy legacy.

FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

THE KENNEDYS WERE A COMPLICATED FAMILY, AND LIKE EVERY FAMILY ACROSS THE WORLD, HAD ITS QUIRKS

Rose had strict rules

Mother to nine Kennedy children, Rose had certain rules to keep them in line. They were not allowed to cry, lateness was not tolerated, and the children were assigned topics to discuss at dinner that they had to research and report back on.

Jackie had already been engaged

Society pages in an American newspaper showed that Jackie was once engaged to John Husted in January 1952. But she called the engagement off in March, and a few months later met John Kennedy at a dinner hosted by mutual friends when he was a congressman.

John donated his salary

When he became president, John Kennedy's family fortune was valued at approximately $1 billion. Day-to-day John lived off a $10 million trust fund, and according to biographer Richard Reeves, Kennedy refused his presidential salary, deciding instead to donate the money to charity.

Michael was accused of statutory rape

In 1997, it was revealed that Michael Kennedy had been having a three-year-long affair with his children's 16-year-old babysitter, Marisa Verrochi. He was accused of having sex with her before she was of the age of consent. He took a polygraph test three times to prove otherwise.

Eunice was on a coin

In 1995, Eunice was the first living woman to be honoured with a commemorative US coin. To commemorate her dedication to the Special Olympics, 800,000 coins were made featuring her face. Part of the proceeds collected from the coin, which was priced at $35, went to benefiting the games founded.

© KEVIN WISNEWSKI/REX/Shutterstock / Bettmann / Getty images

THE KENNEDY SHOOTING STAR

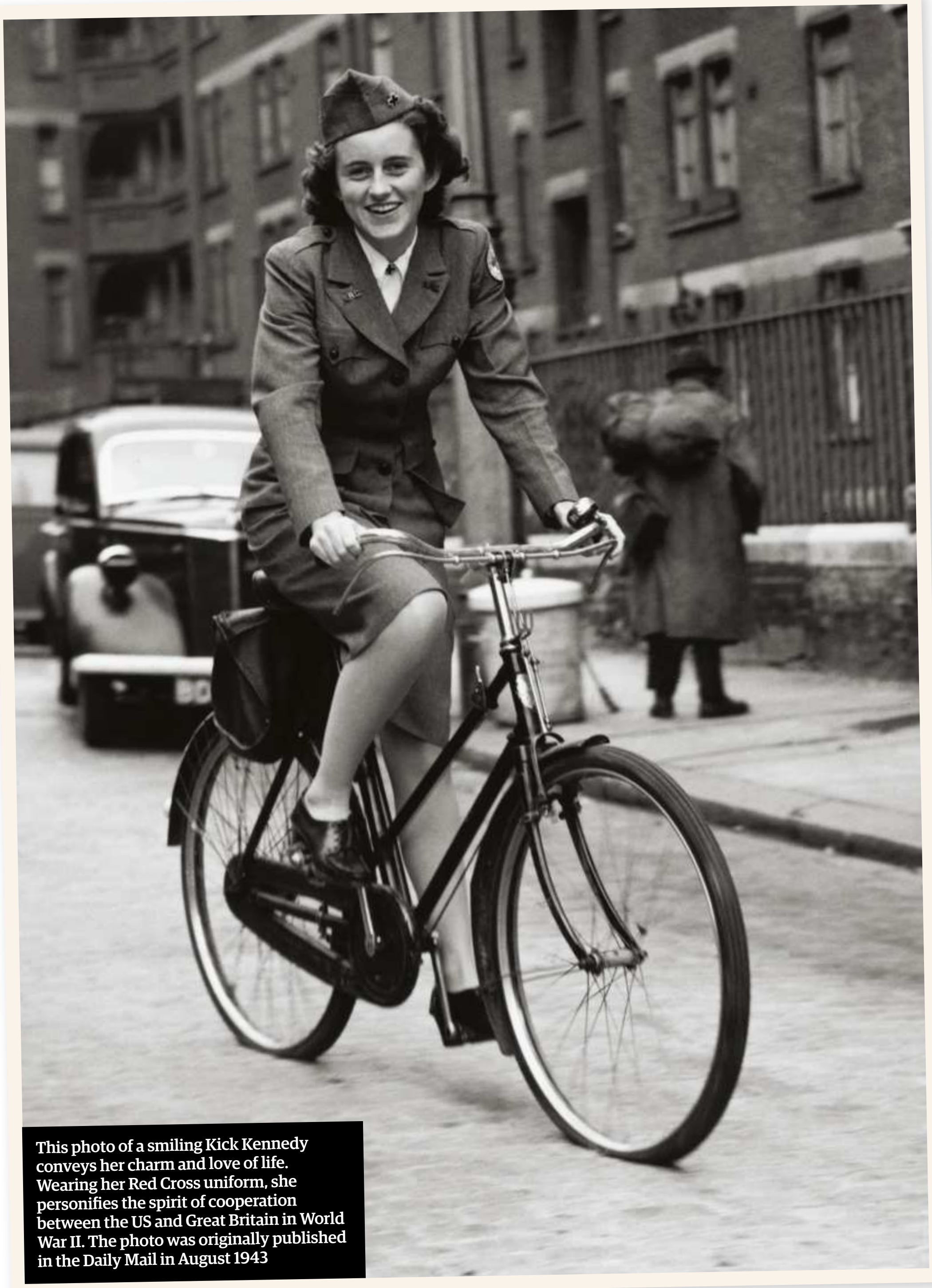
KATHLEEN 'KICK' KENNEDY WAS HEADSTRONG, VIVACIOUS AND GONE TOO SOON; JOY AND TRAGEDY MARKED AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF 28 YEARS

She was, at the same time, a joyous soul and a frustratingly free spirit. Those who met her were likely to remember the experience for the rest of their lives. While other members of the Kennedy family marched in time to the cadence of prescribed conduct, Kathleen Kennedy sought and found her own rhythm of life.

Born in Brookline, Massachusetts, on 20 February 1920, the fourth child and second daughter of Joseph P Kennedy Sr and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, Kathleen possessed the lively personality that endeared her to many but contributed to her alienation from family members, particularly her mother, in pursuit of her own happiness. For Kathleen, following her own heart came at tremendous cost. She routinely displayed a fun-loving perspective on the world, sometimes to the consternation of other Kennedys, defied the family and its traditional Roman Catholic faith to marry the man she loved, and brushed scandal aside to keep company with a married lover.

Aptly nicknamed 'Kick' because she was exactly that, a real kick for those she met and with an ever-widening circle of friends, Kathleen attended the Riverdale County School in Bronxville, New York, as a child. But her mother became concerned about a growing interest from the boys, drawn like moths to a flickering flame by her irrepressible nature, broad smile and outgoing demeanour. By the time she was 13, she had been transferred to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Noroton, Connecticut, a forbidding, brooding manor clinging to cliffs on the edge of Long Island Sound.

She was not a raving beauty, with mousy brown hair and somewhat dumpy figure standing just under five feet, three inches tall, but what she lacked in comeliness she made up in spades with laughter and joie de vivre. She was also self-deprecating, referring to her own legs as "tree stumps." She was athletic and enjoyed playing rough-and-tumble games like football with the rest of her eight siblings, and she grew quite close to her older brother, John, the future 35th president of the United States. Her flirtations resulted in one early romantic relationship of note with Peter Grace, son of Joseph Peter Grace Sr, chief executive of the WR Grace and Company chemical


This photo of a smiling Kick Kennedy conveys her charm and love of life. Wearing her Red Cross uniform, she personifies the spirit of cooperation between the US and Great Britain in World War II. The photo was originally published in the Daily Mail in August 1943

Patricia (left) and Kathleen (right), riding in Rotten Row, Hyde Park, London, 1938

Kathleen Kennedy cooks on a stovetop on New Year's Day 1940. She devoted many hours to volunteer work with the Red Cross

conglomerate, and she kept company with several of her brothers' friends and schoolmates. While her father's philandering was something of an open secret, Kathleen was also courageous, sympathetic to the pain that her mother felt, and defending her whenever she believed Rose was uneasy or on the verge of shame.

Interestingly, her father's political ambitions opened a chapter in Kathleen's life that led to fleeting happiness, discord and eventually an untimely death. When their father was named US ambassador to Great Britain in 1938, the entire family boarded ship, crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and became immersed in British culture while being presented at the court of King Edward VIII in May. Kathleen made her formal entrance into society as a debutante seven months before the monarch's abdication for the woman he loved, American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson.

Kathleen embraced her opportunity, making friends with ease while at Queen's College in London, and becoming a social sensation. Photographers trailed her as she engaged in charity work, horseback riding or walking. The widely read, high-society magazine *Queen* covered her activities extensively, and published a prediction that she would dominate the London social scene. She was named in the media as "debutante of 1938."

An easy, unpretentious and generally unpredictable manner endeared Kathleen to the British people. Stories of her antics remain among the favourite illustrations of a teenaged American girl, raised with rather austere expectations of conduct, thriving in the moment. The American-born Viscountess Astor invited her to spend Easter weekend at Cliveden, her Buckinghamshire estate, and she wowed the gathering, referring to the rather stuffy duke of Marlborough as 'Dukie Wookie'. She made herself at home everywhere she went, and relaxed by kicking her shoes off after entering. She possessed a rapier wit, a wry smile, and a fun-loving attitude that abruptly took centre-stage as she brushed off the prim and proper conventions of British society. One of her most memorable antics involved tossing dinner rolls across a formal table at another guest, which invited everyone else who was at the gathering to start tossing food around at one another.

During the dizzying spring of 1938, Kathleen attended one dinner party or social event after another. One of these, however, was particularly memorable. She took notice of another guest, William Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington, heir to the title of Duke of Devonshire, fabulously wealthy, and Protestant. The two were the proverbial opposites that attracted, Billy somewhat shy and reserved while Kathleen was bubbly and outgoing. Sparks quickly flew, and the couple soon became romantically involved.

Kathleen teased her beau: "Being a duke is something of a joke, isn't it? It's like being a cartoon character, no?"

To the Kennedy family, especially Rose, the romance was no laughing matter. Ironically, she was relieved when the storm of World War II broke across Europe, and Britain was compelled to respond to the growing threat of Nazi Germany. Since British cities were to become targets for German bombers, Joseph Kennedy decided that his family would be safer at home in the US. Kathleen begged her parents to stay. For two weeks she pleaded with her father to allow her to remain in London where she had established firm friendships and found the love of her life.

> "Kathleen embraced her opportunity, making friends with ease"

A DEATH IN WARTIME

WILLIAM CAVENDISH, MARQUESS OF HARTINGTON, DIED JUST DAYS AFTER ARRIVING ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT

On 13 June 1944, just four weeks after his marriage to Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, Major William Cavendish was called to duty with the 5th Battalion, Coldstream Guards, Guards Armoured Division. He was 26 years old.

The young officer experienced celebrations as towns in France and Belgium were liberated during the Allied advance toward the German frontier. He wrote to his bride that he considered himself "…so unworthy of it all living as I have in reasonable safety and comfort during these years… I have a permanent lump in my throat and long for you to be here as it is an experience which few can have and which I would love to share with you."

Days later, while his unit fought fanatical German troops of the Waffen SS during the battle for the Belgian town of Heppen, Billy was shot through the heart by a German sniper. He was permanently interred in Belgium near where he fell in accordance with his family's wishes. Kathleen was devastated when her father delivered the heartbreaking news to her at the family's suite in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. She scribbled in her diary: "So ends the story of Billy and Kick. Life is so cruel. I am on my way to England. Writing is impossible."

Coupled with the death of her brother weeks earlier, the loss of Billy was a profound shock. And sadly, it was not the end of her troubles. An estrangement from her mother persisted and deepened with her coming relationship with Peter Fitzwilliam.

It was to no avail, and in the fall of 1939, Rose and the children returned to the United States. Meanwhile, the Marquess, whom Kathleen affectionately referred to as 'Billy', assumed the duties of a major in the fabled Coldstream Guards of the British Army. It is believed that after Kathleen returned to the US, he dated other girls and was also briefly engaged to one of them.

Kathleen, however, pined for Billy and turned to educational pursuits at the Finch School in New York and Florida Commercial College. She left college in 1941 to work at the *Washington Times-Herald* newspaper as a research assistant for executive editor Frank Waldrop while living alternately in Washington, DC and the Kennedy family home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. She displayed considerable aptitude at the newspaper, and was elevated to team up with Danish journalist Inga Arvad, who was soon to be romantically linked with her brother, John, then a young naval officer in Washington. Arvad wrote a regular column titled 'Did You Happen to See?' that profiled political figures in the capital city. Kathleen assisted Arvad, wrote her own column reviewing films and theatre productions, and assumed the duties of 'Did You Happen to See?' when Arvad left the newspaper.

All the while, Kathleen sought an opportunity to return to Britain. As the war turned in favour of the Allies, that opportunity came. She had joined the Red Cross in New York in the summer of

Rose Kennedy (left) and her daughter, Kathleen, attend a wedding in London during happy times in the spring of 1938

Kathleen Kennedy married William Cavendish, Marquess Of Hartington, on 6 May 1944

Kathleen attended many social events, and proved to be a very popular guest

1940 and worked on planning events that aided British seamen who had been severely wounded. In 1943, she renewed her efforts with the Red Cross, taking preparatory course at American University in Washington, and boarding a ship bound for her beloved Britain on 25 June. She volunteered to work as a program assistant in London at Hans Crescent, a centre for officers in need of rest and relaxation. In August, the *Daily Mail* published a photo of Kathleen in her Red Cross uniform pedaling along a London street, earning her another endearing nickname: 'the girl on the bicycle'.

Billy wasted no time, heading to London from Yorkshire, and the two shared a romantic dinner at the Mayfair Hotel, toasting their good fortune with glasses of champagne. Although news of their reunion circulated across London, and an engagement announcement seemed imminent, there were strong headwinds that pushed against a union that was contrary to the tenets of the Catholic Church.

Rose Kennedy vehemently disapproved of the romance and – heaven forbid – a potential wedding. She firmly believed that marriage outside the Catholic Church was a mortal sin, condemning Kathleen to eternal separation from God. Rose's emotional state became so fragile that friends and family members feared she would suffer a nervous breakdown.

Although neither Kathleen nor Billy, as much as they loved one another, could bring themselves to marry into the other's faith, the Kennedy daughter defied her mother. The couple compromised with a civil ceremony at the Chelsea Registry Office in London on 6 May 1944. Her older brother, Joseph P Kennedy Jr, a naval officer serving in Britain, was the only immediate family member present, and gave his sister away. The deed was complete in ten minutes. On the office steps, Kathleen, now Lady Hartington, smiled in a pale-pink dress and matching hat, while Billy beamed, resplendent in his military uniform. Older brother John would probably have been

> "She had joined the Red Cross in New York in the summer of 1940"

Kathleen, wearing a dark, winter coat, attends a Valentine's Day 1939 wedding at the Brompton Oratory in London

A CLASSIC KENNEDY COVER-UP

EVEN IN DEATH, KICK KENNEDY POSED A PROBLEM FOR HER FAMILY

The Kennedy family had political aspirations, even after the death of Joe Jr. The torch was passed to the second son, John, and when Kathleen Kennedy died in a plane crash in France while in the company of her 37-year-old married lover, Peter Fitzwilliam, something had to be done.

A master manipulator, Joseph P Kennedy Sr took action. He prevailed upon friends in the publishing industry to print a story that covered Kick's risqué tracks, even though her scandalous relationship was an open secret on the streets of London. The New York Daily News dutifully reported that Kick was an "old friend" of Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam, and had boarded the aircraft on 13 May 1948, at their invitation. The Boston American did likewise.

On 29 June 1963, President John F Kennedy visited his sister's grave at St Peter's Church, Edensor. Clutching a small bouquet of flowers, he said a quiet prayer as he took time during a busy itinerary that included a state visit to Ireland. For years, he had been unable to bring himself to make the pilgrimage. Five months later, the president was dead, shot by assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas, on 22 November. A small marker commemorates the presidential visit.

Kathleen Kennedy and the Marquess of Hartington enjoy a night out for dinner prior to their marriage in May 1944

© Getty images

there but remained in the hospital recovering from injuries recently sustained during the war in the Pacific.

Rose is said to have written in her diary that she was 'heartbroken' and 'horrified' that the marriage had occurred. The rift between mother and daughter seems never to have quite healed. Kathleen was determined and headstrong, and accepted the consequences of her decision, although she wrote to Rose while on her honeymoon at Billy's seaside estate in Eastbourne to reassure her mother that she had not abandoned her Catholic faith.

Meanwhile, the joy the young couple experienced was tempered with anxiety, and proved all too transient. On 12 August 1944, Kathleen's beloved brother, Joe Jr, was killed in action while on a clandestine mission when his explosives-laden aircraft blew up in midair. Four days later, she did return to Hyannis Port for a period of mourning. Then, on 9 September, her world was shattered. Billy was killed in action in Belgium.

> "Everyone aboard was killed when the fuselage hit the ground"

In the wake of the double tragedy, Kathleen returned to work with the Red Cross, exhibiting some of her family's most prominent traits: grace and steadfastness in times of extreme grief and personal loss. For a time, she served at the Charles Street Club in London, and after another brief visit home at the end of the war, she decided to return to the city to live permanently.

Two years after Billy's death, Kathleen found romance once again. This time, the circumstances were significantly more scandalous. Peter Fitzwilliam was handsome, wealthy, a playboy gambler, Protestant, and married. While Peter was involved in divorce proceedings, he and Kathleen engaged in a passionate affair. Eventually, word began to spread that the two intended to marry. Rose was livid, threatening to cut Kathleen off from the Kennedy family and disown her rebellious daughter if she followed through with a second wedding to a Protestant, and this time with a decadent reputation.

After learning that her father would be in Paris on business, Kathleen turned to him for intercession and approval. Joe Sr agreed to meet the couple, and plans were made for a romantic weekend at Cannes on the French Riviera, perhaps an opportunity to collect themselves in preparation for the upcoming meeting with her father.

At 3.30pm on the afternoon of 13 May 1948, the couple boarded a small De Havilland Dove aircraft at Le Bourget airport outside Paris, bound for Cannes. Although pilot Peter Townshend and navigator Arthur Freeman had objected to taking off due to severe weather along the flight path, Fitzwilliam would have none of it. Despite the fact that all commercial flights had been suspended, he hammered the cautious pilot for 20 minutes. Finally, Townshend relented. The plane climbed to 10,000

feet and proceeded generally southward into the vicinity of Vienne and the Ardeche Mountains. An hour later, radio communications were lost. As the aircraft approached the centre of the storm, it was violently shaken. Turbulence buffeted the plane for nearly half an hour as it pitched and yawed, at times losing several hundred feet in altitude.

About three hours into the doomed flight, the plane burst through thick clouds; the disoriented crew and passengers found themselves in a very steep dive. As Townshend was unable to regain control, the stress of the wind, weather and dramatic downturn shredded the airframe, shearing off a wing, both engines and finally the tail of the plane. Everyone aboard was killed when the fuselage hit the ground with a huge shudder. A farmer watched the death spiral, and a few hours after the crash he led a rescue party out to the scene at the bottom of an 18-foot ravine near the peak of Le Coran. Townshend and Freeman were crushed against the instrument panel of the plane. Fitzwilliam's lifeless body was curled beneath a seat. Kathleen was found still belted in her seat and with a large laceration across her cheek. Her feet were characteristically shoeless, and those who saw her in this way believed she had been sleeping, jarred awake just seconds before impact. The body of the 28-year-old woman was the only one the rescuers could reach.

The Cavendish family made arrangements for a Catholic funeral at Farm Street Church in London. Her grieving father was the only member of the family in attendance. Her mother was reported to have checked in to a hospital for medical tests.

Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, a bright and shining star, was interred in the Cavendish family burial ground at St Peter's Church, Edensor, near Chatsworth. Her headstone simply reads: '...Joy she gave, joy she has found'.

Kathleen (right) attends a wedding in London in March 1938 with her parents, Joe Kennedy Sr and Rose Kennedy

Kathleen Kennedy and the Marquess of Hartington attend the Goodwood Races, a highlight of the season, in the summer of 1938

KICK KENNEDY REMAINS IN MEMORY

ALTHOUGH SHE DIED YOUNG, THE ROMANCE AND TRAGEDY OF KATHLEEN KENNEDY'S LIFE IS COMPELLING TO CONTEMPLATE

A building bears her name

In October 1957, the Kennedy family dedicated a new physical education building at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in Purchase, New York, to the memory of daughter Kathleen. Manhattanville College was the alma mater of her mother, Rose Kennedy.

A namesake remembers

Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy, who was named for her great aunt, visited the grave of the original Kick in 2016. The daughter of Robert F Kennedy Jr and his first wife, Emily Ruth, the younger Kick was born in 1988, and has recently granted interviews reflecting on the life and loves of the earlier Kick.

The wedding: a makeshift moment?

According to a contemporary newspaper account, the wedding of Kick Kennedy and the Marquess of Hartington took place in a 'bare room, brightened only by three vases of carnations'. Kick's dress, described as 'delphinium pink suede crepe with toque to match...' was purchased with wartime clothing coupons.

When Billy departed

When the Marquess of Hartington was called up with his Coldstream Guards unit to deploy to the frontlines in June 1944, his young wife, Kick, was melancholy. In a revealing and memorable diary entry, she wrote: "This is the saddest evening. B is the most perfect husband."

Tales of two sisters

Originally an image of an unforgettable day at court in London, a photograph of Rose Kennedy standing between her daughters, Kathleen and Rosemary, is poignant and haunting. Kick's sorrows and estrangement from Rose are well documented, and Rosemary was institutionalised after a failed lobotomy.

Rosemary (right) was a quiet child with intellectual disabilities, who was doted on by her older brothers, Joe Jr and John. However, as she grew older her wild temper and violent outbursts drove her father to seek a desperate solution, with tragic consequences

THE HIDDEN KENNEDY

DELVE INTO THE TRAGIC LIFE OF ROSEMARY KENNEDY, THE WOMAN HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE WORLD FOR THE MAJORITY OF HER EXISTENCE

Rose Marie 'Rosemary' Kennedy, the eldest daughter and third child of Joe and Rose Kennedy, was left hidden in the shadows of her famous siblings for the majority of her life. Diagnosed with mental and physical disabilities from an early age, the attempts of her father to find a cure ultimately led to consequences that defined Rosemary for the rest of her life.

Born on 13 September 1918, Rosemary's birth was far from smooth sailing. Her mother had opted for a home birth, just as she had done with Rosemary's brothers, Joseph Jr and John. Doctor Fredrick Good, Rose's obstetrician, had been running late, caught up with patients affected by the Spanish influenza epidemic. When Rose went into labour, it became clear that her baby would not wait for his arrival. Although the nurse attending to Rose was medically trained to deal with childbirth, she did not want to do so without the presence of a doctor. In an attempt to prevent the birth, she insisted that Rose hold her legs tightly together and resist the natural urge to push. When this method did not work, the nurse tried a far more drastic measure to delay the inevitable. Holding the baby's head, she forced it to remain in the birth canal for two hours until Doctor Good finally turned up - depriving the baby of vital oxygen, a surefire cause of brain damage that Rose ultimately sustained.

> "Rosemary, named after her mother, was a quiet and peaceful baby who rarely cried, and delighted those around her"

As Rose was eventually allowed to give birth following the doctor's arrival, she was elated to have delivered a healthy little girl. Rosemary, named after her mother, was a quiet and peaceful baby who rarely cried, and delighted those around her. But as she grew older, it soon became clear to her parents that Rosemary was not developing at the same rate as her older brothers. At two years old, she was still crawling, had only just begun to take her first steps, and was struggling to use a baby spoon. Joe and Rose brushed off their initial concerns, believing that Rosemary's late development was partly because she was a girl.

However, by the time it came for Rosemary to start school, it was obvious that there was something more going on. She struggled to read and write, and quickly fell behind in class, while also struggling to socialise with the other children. After failing kindergarten twice, Rosemary underwent intelligence tests, which determined that she had a low IQ for a child her age. Hoping for answers, Rosemary's parents took her for testing at Harvard University, where doctors concluded that she was mentally retarded.

To avoid questions regarding Rosemary's disabilities, her mother pulled her out of school for private tuition. Confined to her home, Rosemary became frustrated as she watched her brothers and sisters leave while she was forced to stay behind, unable to go anywhere by herself. She wanted more than anything to please her parents but felt like a disappointment to them. Her situation worsened as she grew prone to emotional outbursts compounded with fits, which were most likely epileptic seizures.

Yet despite the upsetting circumstances, Rosemary was doted upon by her family. By the time she was almost 14, her mother and father had produced another four daughters and two sons. All eight of Rosemary's siblings were kind and gentle towards her, realising that she could not understand the world in the way that they did. They included her in all of their activities, determined that she would live as much of a normal life as possible - John in particular was said to have adored his sister.

Rosemary was given a break from private tutoring when she was accepted into the Sacred Heart Convent at Rhode Island, aged 15. The

Kennedys hoped that this would provide her with the opportunity to both improve and enable her to meet other young women, although she was to be educated in her own, separate classroom. Rosemary remained at the convent for two years until it was realised that she could not progress beyond the level of a fourth grader, usually aged between nine and ten years old.

Returning home for more private tutoring, Rosemary began to feel increasingly trapped. She could not understand why she had to remain at home while the rest of the family came and went as they pleased, despite her mother's attempts to placate her. Rosemary acted out by frequently attempting to escape from the house, hoping to prove that she was capable of being alone. Each time, she was caught. And each time, Rosemary's outbursts became more violent towards her family, who had no idea what to do.

But there was to be a moment of light in the dark for Rosemary and her family. When Joe Sr was appointed as the United States ambassador to the United Kingdom by President Roosevelt in 1938, the family moved to London. Here, Rosemary was presented as a debutante to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth alongside her sister, Kathleen. Contemporaries remarked on their beauty, with the pair wearing gowns made of white tulle, and Rosemary – now in her early 20s – sported a warm and confident smile. Her parents had trained her intensely for that very moment, to ensure that her disabilities remained hidden.

During her time in England, Rosemary was sent to a boarding school and convent, Belmont House, to continue her education. The nuns believed in practical learning, which allowed Rosemary to enjoy herself without the constraints of reading and writing. Here, she had finally found an environment in which she could thrive, and for the first time, feel like she could fit in. For her family, it was no doubt a relief to see their daughter and sister so happy and content after years of struggling to cope with her disabilities.

Yet Rosemary's new lease for life was to be devastatingly cut short. The Germans invaded Paris in 1940 and this, coupled with the difference in views between President Roosevelt and Joe Sr, forced the Kennedys to return to the United States. Perhaps in reaction to having to leave the place where she had found peace and comfort, Rosemary returned to her increasingly erratic behaviour. Her parents enrolled her into a convent school at Washington, DC, but it was not the same as the one in England, and Rosemary could not settle in.

Instead, she indulged in her rebellious attitude and started sneaking out of the convent in the middle of the night. The nuns reported that Rosemary would head to bars and sleep with the men that she met, hardly the conservative behaviour expected of a Kennedy daughter and a Catholic. The news deeply disturbed Joe Sr at a time when Joe Jr and John were politically on the rise. He had worked hard to ensure that their careers would flourish, but if news of Rosemary's outings became public, it could tarnish the whole family.

> "Rosemary's new lease for life was to be devastatingly cut short"

By 1941, the Kennedys were running out of options to help Rosemary. That is until Joe Sr met Doctor Walter Freeman and Doctor James Watts, who were both vocal advocates of a new procedure, lobotomies. Freeman and Watts claimed that lobotomies could cure patients of violent mood swings, even going as far to say that they could cure physical and mental disabilities. Today, we know that these were widely inaccurate, devastating and unproven claims with life-altering consequences. But for families like the Kennedys in the Forties and early Fifties, it was a desperate solution to a seemingly impossible situation.

Hoping that a lobotomy would be the cure that could help, Joseph Kennedy authorised the procedure. She was taken to George Washington University Hospital and strapped down onto the operating table. Anaesthetic was used to numb her head, although she remained conscious for the operation. Freeman and Watts drilled two holes into her skull, inserting metal instruments to separate the pre-frontal cortex from the rest of the brain. Rosemary was asked to recite poetry throughout the procedure – when she became incoherent, the doctors knew that the lobotomy had been completed.

Immediately, it was clear the operation had gone terribly wrong. Beforehand, Rosemary may have been mentally disabled, but she was

Rosemary (right) with her mother, Rose, and sister, Kathleen, preparing to meet King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

The Kennedy family during the Thirties, with Rosemary standing between her seated brother, John, and father, Joe Sr

Rosemary's birth was traumatic and led to oxygen deprivation that caused her intellectual and developmental disabilities

capable of living her life. The lobotomy had left her unable to walk or talk, and caused her to become incontinent. Rosemary was 23 years old, but in the hands of Freeman and Watts, her mental capacity had shrunk to that of a two year old. There was no chance that she would ever be able to live the independent life that she had always dreamed of.

The lobotomy was supposed to help Rosemary, but instead it marked the beginning of the tragedy that would engulf her life. Straight after the procedure, Rosemary was institutionalised in a psychiatric hospital where she received rehabilitation treatment. After enduring months of rehab, Rosemary only regained partial use of her left arm, and could barely speak. By 1949, she had been relocated to St Coletta's in Jefferson, Wisconsin, a care facility for the disabled. Rosemary would remain there for the rest of her life.

For 20 years, the Kennedys did not visit Rosemary at her facility, and those outside of the family were kept in the dark regarding her condition. Speculation and rumours about Rosemary started to circulate with John's increasing political prominence, particularly during his re-election campaign for the Senate in 1958. Her

The Kennedy house, pictured in 1974. Rosemary was born in the master bedroom on the upper floor

THE FIVE KENNEDY SISTERS

SISTERS ROSEMARY, KATHLEEN, EUNICE, JEAN AND PATRICIA ALL LED VERY DIFFERENT LIVES

Rose Marie Kennedy
13 September 1918 – 7 January 2005

Born with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Rosemary was left largely incapacitated for the rest of her life thanks to a lobotomy in 1941. Kept hidden from the world, Rosemary's story was hardly known until her brother's election as president in 1961 - but her siblings fought to make sure that others would not suffer her fate.

Kathleen Agnes Kennedy
20 February 1920 – 13 May 1948

Kathleen began working for the Red Cross in the middle of World War II, starting a relationship with William Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington. Although her parents disapproved, they married in May 1944. Four months later, William was killed. In 1948, Kathleen was killed in a plane crash.

Eunice Mary Kennedy
10 July 1921 - 11 August 2009

Eunice was actively involved with the successful presidential campaign of her brother, John, in 1960. She was a dedicated and prolific philanthropist, promoting the pro-life movement and advocacy of intellectual disabilities during her lifetime, for which she was widely praised.

Patricia Helen Kennedy
6 May 1924 – 17 September 2006

Patricia hoped to become a film producer but found this to be a difficult route to pursue as a woman. She married actor Peter Lawford in 1954, but their marriage was strained as a result of Lawford's alcohol and drug addictions. They eventually separated, leading to Patricia battling alcoholism herself.

Jean Ann Kennedy
20 February 1928
The only sibling still alive

Jean Kennedy is the last remaining Kennedy sibling, having outlived all eight of her brothers and sisters. In 1993, she became the United States ambassador to Ireland under the Clinton administration, and played a crucial role in the Northern Ireland peace process.

EUNICE AND THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

THE KENNEDY SISTER WHO BECAME A LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

During the presidency of her brother, Eunice was an advocate for increasing awareness and treatment of intellectual disabilities. Along with the inspirational Rosemary, Eunice is frequently cited as a driving force behind President Kennedy's reforms on the matter.

Although she initially denied that Rosemary had an influence on her charity work, Eunice would admit later in life that her sister was perhaps a subconscious inspiration to her. After visiting her disabled sister in 1962, Eunice founded the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The NICHD conducted research into many aspects of child health, including the issue of intellectual and developmental disabilities – in 2008, the institute was renamed in her honour.

That same year, she also founded Camp Shriver, with the aim of using sports to change wider perceptions of those with intellectual disabilities, and enhance their quality of life. This eventually evolved into the Special Olympics a few years later, which has become a global movement of today.

Eunice has received a number of awards as a result of her charity work. In 1984, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Reagan in recognition of her work for the intellectually disabled. In addition to this, she received the Eagle Award from the United States Sports Academy and the Theodore Roosevelt Award, among many other honours. In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI gave Eunice a papal knighthood, and she therefore became a Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great.

Rosemary, in the middle, with her sister, Jean, and brother, John, around a year before her lobotomy

Rosemary beside her father at the official opening of the London Children's Zoo

absence was explained away, with the Kennedys claiming that Rosemary was a reclusive woman. In reality, they were keeping her hidden away.

The truth about Rosemary surfaced after John was elected as president of the United States in 1961, and the Kennedys opened up more about her condition. That same year, Joe Sr suffered a debilitating stroke, and in 1962 Rose finally went to visit her daughter. As Rosemary's story became known, Rose maintained that she had been kept in the dark and that her husband had authorised the lobotomy without her consent. Whether this is or isn't true we will never know, but when Rosemary set her eyes on her mother again, she lashed out violently. Rosemary knew that for two decades, those she loved had abandoned her.

Rosemary's story is undeniably upsetting and sad. Tragically, it appears as if she was never asked for her opinion on the lobotomy before she was forced to go through with it, with mortifying consequences. Nevertheless, there is still, remarkably, a silver lining that can be found in this mess. Along with Rose, the Kennedy siblings also made visits to see the sister they had adored. After truly grasping the state of Rosemary's life, they worked tirelessly to improve conditions for the disabled in the United States.

Doctor Walter Freeman performing a lobotomy, the same procedure that left Rosemary with the mental capacity of a two year old

As president, John initiated a number of reforms to address the issue of intellectual disability, which was largely neglected and underfunded across the country. His efforts culminated with the introduction of the Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendment, the first piece of major legislation to tackle mental illness and disability in the United States. The amendment increased funding and grants for disability programmes in the United States, as well as the creation of new treatment and research centres. The Amendment was signed in October 1963, just a month before John's assassination.

Rosemary's younger sisters, Eunice and Jean, also made big strides to help the disabled community in the United States. Eunice was heavily involved in the establishment of numerous programmes to support children with disabilities. She is best remembered as the founder of the Special Olympics, first held in 1968, the world's largest sports organisation for children with intellectual disabilities. As for Jean, she is the founder of Very Special Arts (VSA), an international organisation that is dedicated to arts education for those with disabilities, ensuring that they have the best opportunities to access cultural facilities and programmes. For their work with the intellectually disabled, both Eunice and Jean have been the recipients of numerous honours and awards.

Rosemary also had a profound influence on her nephew and Eunice's son, Anthony Shriver. In 1989, he founded Best Buddies International, a non-profit organisation that operates both in the United States and internationally. Best Buddies pairs those with a disability with a volunteer who acts as a friend and mentor for their partner. The scheme works across the education and employment sectors, to enhance the lives of those with disabilities.

As the inspiration for her family's charitable efforts in improving life for the intellectually and developmentally disabled, Rosemary's tragic fate was not in vain. Across the world, hospitals, schools and other facilities have been named in her honour, a testament to her influence on the treatment of intellectual disabilities.

> "Rosemary's story is undeniably upsetting and sad"

After the death of her father in 1969, Rosemary was occasionally taken from her facility for days out with her family, and her ability to walk returned, albeit with a limp. She passed away in 2005 aged 86, surrounded by her four remaining siblings - Eunice, Patricia, Jean, and Ted - after 64 years as a resident at the St Coletta facility. Her death made Rosemary the first Kennedy sibling to die from natural causes, even though she was the fifth child out of the nine to pass away. The tragedy of Rosemary's life can never be understated, but her role as the inspiration behind the significant change in attitudes towards mental disabilities can be seen as a triumph.

JEAN KENNEDY'S CHARITY WORK

THE EFFORTS OF THE REMAINING KENNEDY SIBLING TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Along with her sister, Eunice, Jean Kennedy committed to charity work in support of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 1964, she became a member of the board of trustees for the Joseph P Kennedy Jr Foundation, named in honour of her eldest brother, who died during World War II. The foundation provides financial grants for the awareness and advocacy of intellectual disabilities – she appears to still hold this position, as the last Kennedy sibling alive today at the age of 89.

Until 2012, Jean was also on the board of directors for the John F Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, of which her foundation Very Special Arts (VSA) is an affiliate. In association with the VSA, Jean published her book Chronicles of Courage: Very Special Artists in 1993, highlighting the difference the arts have made in the lives of those with disabilities. Today, the VSA serves over seven million people across the United States and around the world.

Throughout her life, Jean has received a number of awards, including the Jefferson Award and the Gold Medal Award from the Éire Society of Boston for her work with disabled people. In 2011, she was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama, just like her sister, Eunice, was.

© Tim Sloan / AFP / Getty images

A DARK DAY IN DALLAS

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY SHOCKED THE WORLD AND REVEALED SOME OF THE MOST POIGNANT MOMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

On the morning of 22 November 1963, John F Kennedy, 35th president of the USA, smiled broadly and told the Chamber of Commerce in Fort Worth, Texas: "I am confident, as I look to the future, that our chances for security, our chances for peace, are better than they have been in the past." Within an hour, the 46-year-old chief executive was dead. That future of which he had spoken was shattered in seconds by an assassin's lethal bullet.

The murder of President John F Kennedy remains a watershed in American history, a defining moment in the fabric of the nation's growth, maturity and ascension to a leadership role in the wider world. Americans who were living at the time remember distinctly where they were and what they were doing when the news that the president had been shot flashed across the globe.

To this day, the impact of President Kennedy's assassination reverberates, exerting an unparalleled impact on the American psyche. Questions of conspiracy linger. Images of horror, grace and grief are indelible. The Kennedy presidency, outwardly one of hope, youthful vigour and captivating beauty – enough that it was called 'Camelot' – had come to an abrupt, blood-splattered end.

Kennedy had journeyed to Texas as a pragmatic politician. The election of 1964 was looming, and he was determined to heal a rift in the state's Democratic Party during a five-city swing that would be accomplished in just two days. Rich in Electoral College votes, Texas was vital if the chief executive intended to win a second term in office.

A light rain fell as Kennedy concluded his remarks in Fort Worth. Shortly afterwards, he was joined by his wife, Jacqueline, for the brief ride from the Hotel Texas to Carswell Air Force Base. The air hop to Dallas was only 13 minutes in duration, and by the time the First Couple touched down at Love Field, the rain had stopped. Texas governor John Connally and his wife, Nellie, were waiting in the limousine that would transport the group from the airport to the Trade Mart in Dallas for a highly anticipated speech to a packed, sold-out luncheon gathering. The protective bubble top had been removed from the vehicle, and the presidential party would make the ten-mile drive in an open car.

When they stepped from Air Force One, the First Couple moved to a fence line, greeting and shaking hands with well wishers. The grinning president exuded an easy confidence. Mrs Kennedy, dressed in a pink Chanel suit trimmed in navy blue, received a bouquet of red roses.

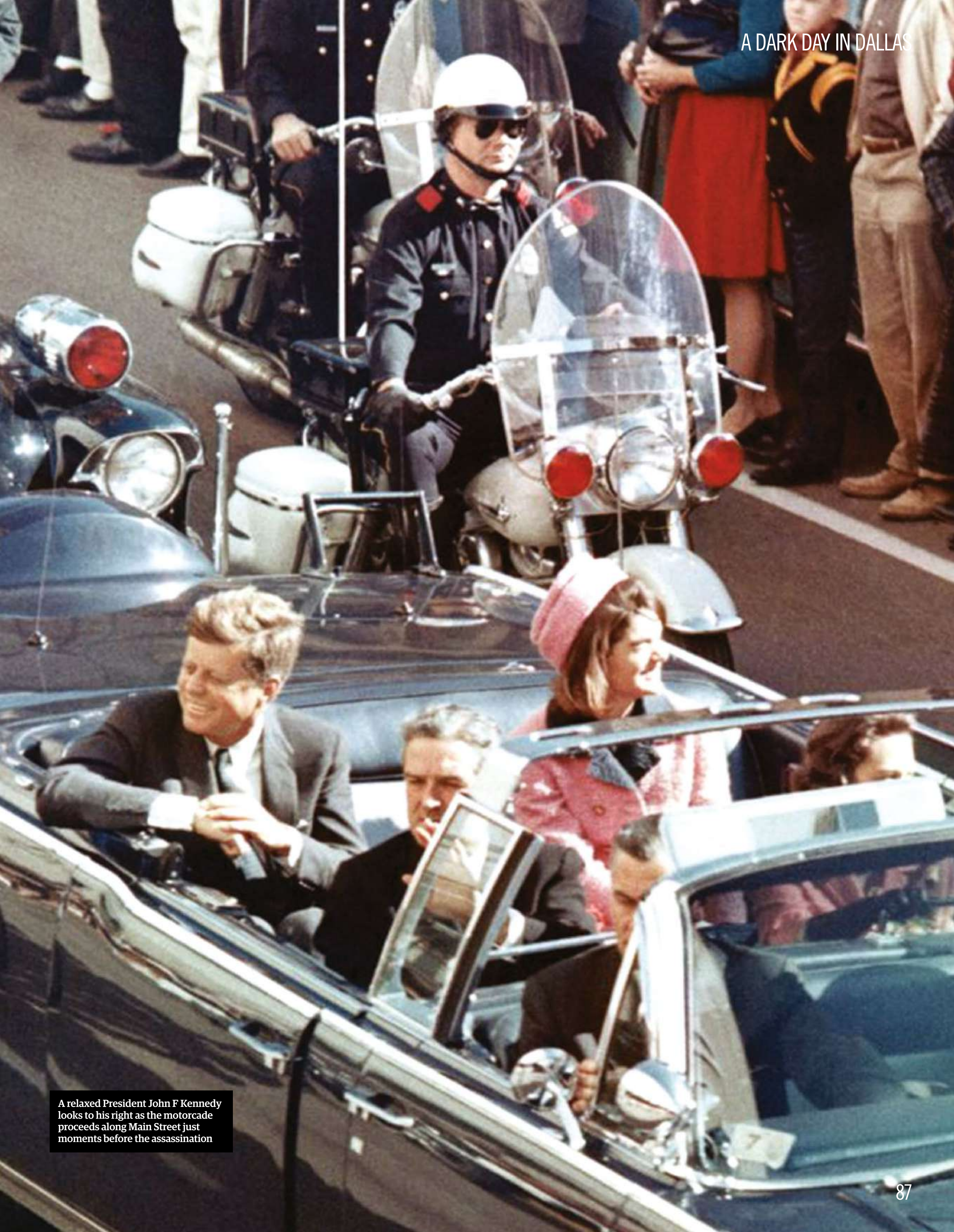
The motorcade then proceeded along a somewhat circuitous route through a section of suburban Dallas to Main Street, turning right on Houston Street, then executing a sharp left onto Elm Street before entering Dealey Plaza and approaching the Stemmons Freeway near the triple underpass, where Elm, Commerce and Main Streets converged.

The trip to the Trade Mart was expected to take 45 minutes, but actually ran about ten minutes behind schedule. Large crowds lined the route. Although some signs of protest were seen, most of the spectators cheered wildly and welcomed the First Couple.

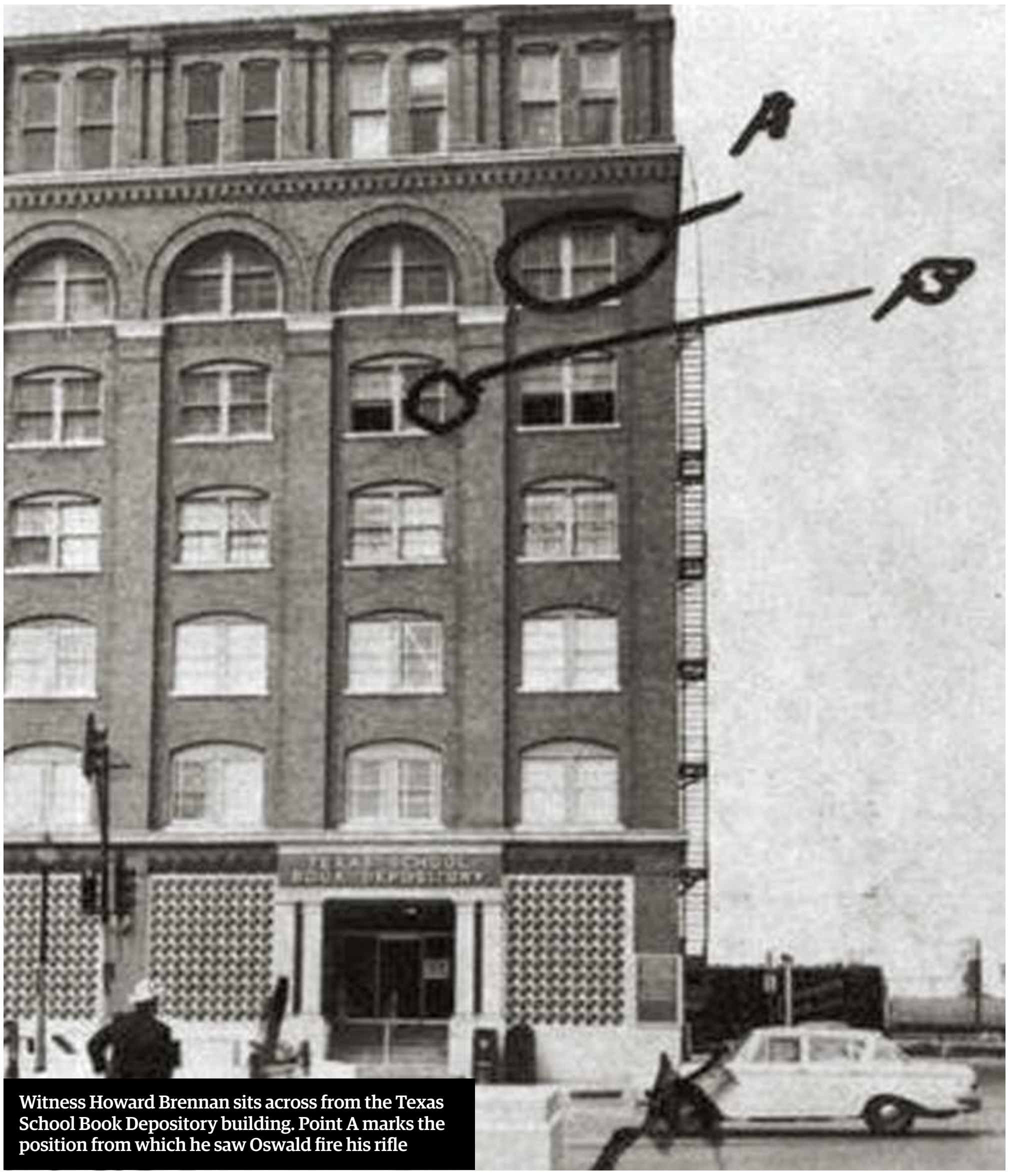
The motorcade entered Dealey Plaza at approximately 12.30pm, and Mrs Connally turned towards the back seat of the limousine and smiled. "Mr President, you can't say Dallas doesn't love you!" He replied: "No, you certainly can't." These may have been the president's last words.

The seven-story Texas School Book Depository building, in the northwest corner of Dealey Plaza, loomed over the right shoulder of President Kennedy as the motorcade proceeded down Elm Street. Suddenly, shots rang out. The unthinkable had happened.

Witnesses later told conflicting accounts of the harrowing seconds, including the number of shots –



A relaxed President John F Kennedy looks to his right as the motorcade proceeds along Main Street just moments before the assassination



Witness Howard Brennan sits across from the Texas School Book Depository building. Point A marks the position from which he saw Oswald fire his rifle

three or four – and the single or multiple locations from which they had come. In the moment, however, President Kennedy was struck by a bullet that entered his upper back, nicked a cervical vertebra, and exited his throat below the larynx, slightly damaging the knot of his necktie. When he was struck, the president had been looking to his right and waving to the crowd with his right arm raised. Immediately, both elbows flew up, and with clenched fists the president slumped slightly forward. Almost immediately, another bullet impacted Kennedy's head, shattering his skull and showering the other occupants of the limousine with blood, bone and brain matter.

Governor Connally was struck – either by another bullet or the same one that had hit the president initially. It entered his back just below the right armpit, broke three ribs (damaging ten centimetres of his right fifth rib), shattered the radius bone of his right wrist into eight fragments, exited his arm, and lodged in his left thigh.

Connally was seriously wounded but survived the ordeal. A spectator, James Tague, was slightly injured in the cheek by a bullet or fragment that struck the curb along Main Street.

President Kennedy, meanwhile, had suffered a fatal gunshot wound. The famed Zapruder film reveals the terrible moment in stark colour footage. The president's head snaps forcefully with the recoil from the lethal bullet's impact, and Mrs Kennedy is seen reaching across the trunk of the limousine, either to retrieve a fragment of the president's skull or to assist Secret Service agent Clint Hill in climbing into the vehicle. In a flash, the limousine speeds away towards Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Doctors Ronald Jones, Malcolm Perry and Kemp Clark, and other medical personnel attended the president at Parkland. Doctor Jones remembered that he reached the emergency room from the hospital cafeteria moments after the stricken president had arrived. Kennedy's body lay motionless on a gurney in trauma room number one. His eyes were open, staring. No heartbeat was present. Two Roman Catholic priests were summoned to administer the last rights of the Church, and the president was pronounced dead.

CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite, fondly regarded as the 'most trusted man in America', broke the news to the American people as regular midday programming was interrupted across the country. "From Dallas, Texas," intoned a visibly emotional Cronkite, "the flash apparently official… President Kennedy died at 1pm Central Standard Time, two o'clock Eastern Standard Time, some 38 minutes ago."

As news of the assassination spread rapidly across the globe, the macabre drama continued to unfold in Dallas. The deadly rifle shots were initially determined to have been fired from above and behind the president, and the logical line of sight stretched to the upper floors of the Depository building. Inspection of the sixth floor revealed a sniper's nest at its southeast corner. Boxes had been stacked, a window was open, and the murder weapon – a cheap 6.5mm Italian-made Carcano Model 1891/38 rifle – had been discarded among the jumble of half-empty boxes.

> "Another bullet impacted Kennedy's head, shattering his skull"

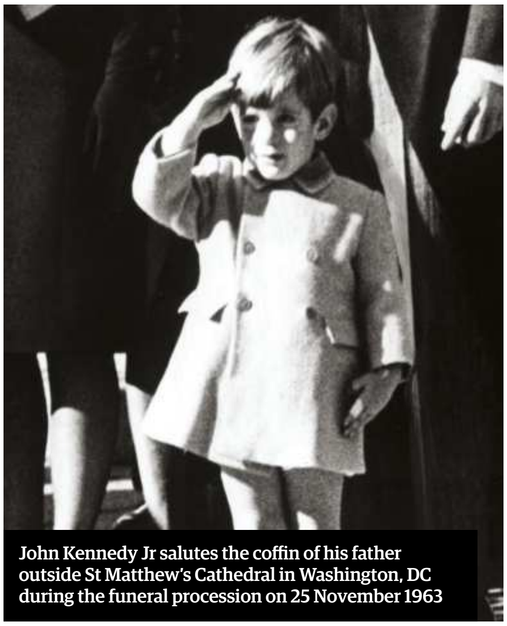
As law enforcement officers scoured the area in and around Dealey Plaza for clues, they sealed the exits from the Depository building. However, 24-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald, an employee of the Texas School Book Depository Company, had already been allowed to pass after encountering his supervisor and a Dallas police officer with a drawn handgun. Oswald, they said, appeared calm as he moved along. The young man bought a drink from a vending machine and then left the building, probably through its front entrance. Later, after conducting a headcount, the supervisor reported to the police that Oswald was missing.

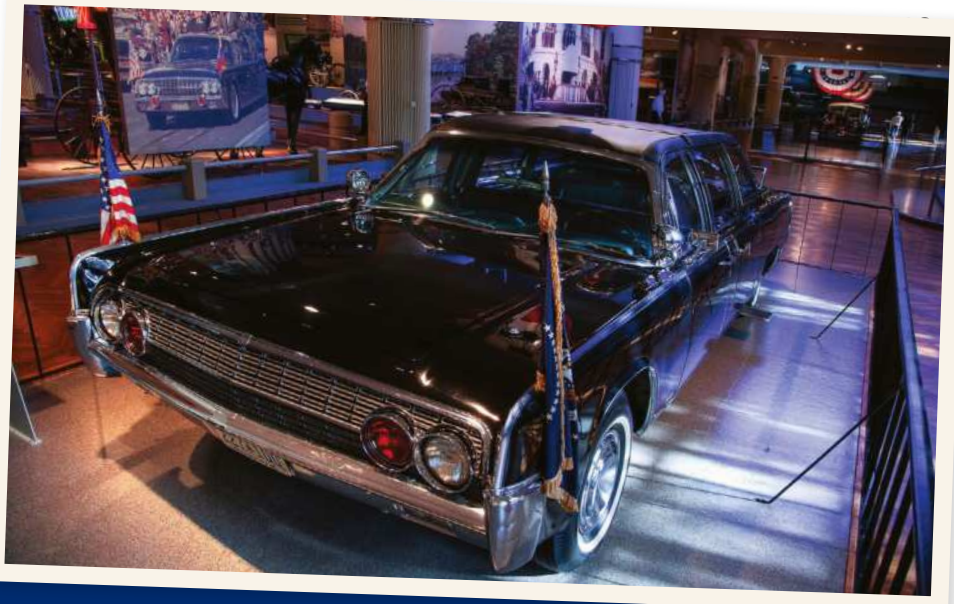
An ex-US marine with admitted Marxist political sympathies, Oswald had actually defected to the Soviet Union, married a Russian national, and then been readmitted to the United States. He had been seen on the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana, protesting US 'interference' with the established Marxist regime in Cuba. He had supposedly maintained contact with the KGB, the Soviet secret police, even after returning to the United States. But all this was to come to light over the following months and years.

On 22 November 1963, by the time President Kennedy was pronounced dead, Oswald was a wanted man. He boarded a Dallas city bus, then took a taxi, and arrived at his boarding house on North Beckley Avenue at 1pm.

Observed by the housekeeper, he went quickly to his room, donned and zipped a jacket, and proceeded to a nearby bus stop. While Oswald waited, 39-year-old Dallas police officer JD Tippit, perhaps connecting a witness's description of the alleged assassin to Oswald's appearance, pulled his patrol car up to the bus stop. As the officer exited the vehicle, Oswald drew a handgun and fired four shots, fatally wounding Tippit.

Oswald fled the scene and slipped into the nearby Texas Theater, where the film *Cry of Battle* was showing. He had neglected to purchase a ticket and the clerk, prodded by the manager of a neighbouring shoe store, called police. Confronted inside the theatre, Oswald again drew his weapon but failed to fire a shot before he was apprehended and dragged outside while shouting that he was a victim of police brutality. Transported to police headquarters, he was questioned and then charged with the murder of Officer Tippit. Hours later, he was also charged with the assassination of President Kennedy.


John Kennedy Jr salutes the coffin of his father outside St Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC during the funeral procession on 25 November 1963



THE LINCOLN CONTINENTAL MUSEUM EXHIBIT

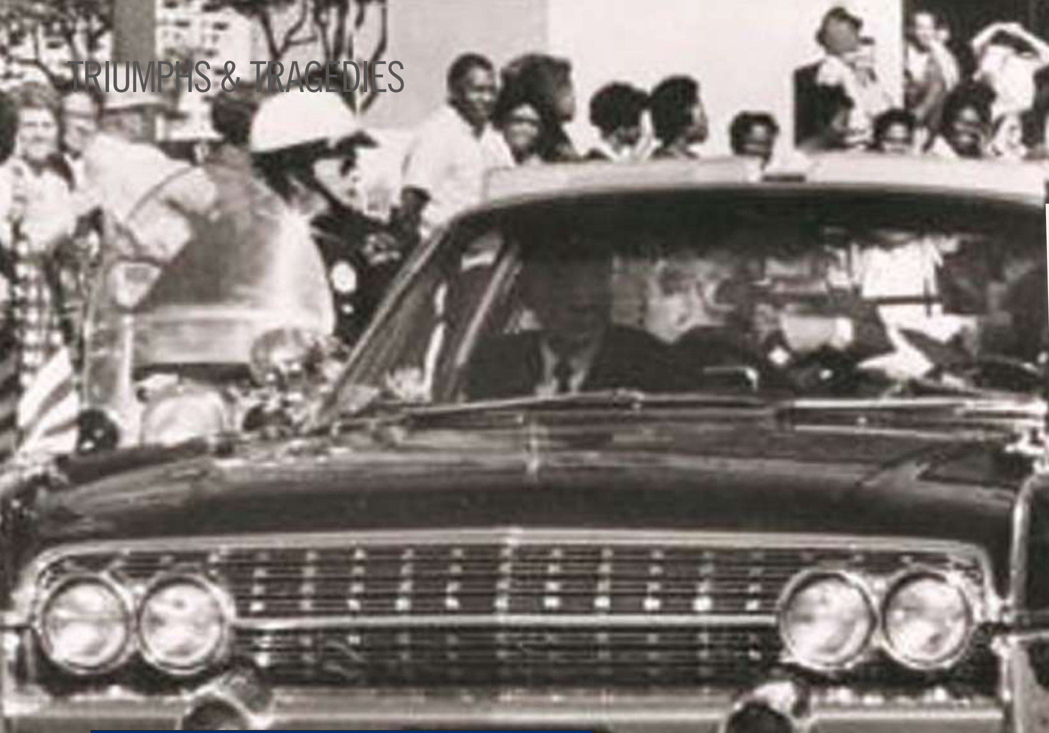
AFTER RETURNING TO SERVICE, PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S LIMOUSINE NOW RESIDES AT THE HENRY FORD MUSEUM

Codenamed X-100, the 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible that carried the presidential party through the streets of Dallas to a rendezvous with destiny on 22 November 1963, reached Parkland Memorial Hospital shortly after 12.30pm that day. A Plexiglas top and cloth cover that had been removed earlier due to improved weather were reinstalled, and at 3.30pm, the limousine was driven to Love Field, where it was placed aboard a Lockheed C-130 transport aircraft and flown to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, arriving at about 8pm.

Forwarded to the White House garage, the limousine was combed for evidence during the opening hours of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. Numerous photographs were taken prior to the extensive cleaning that erased the grisly residue of the murder that had taken place earlier. In December 1963, X-100 was transported to the firm of Hess & Eisenhardt of Cincinnati, Ohio, which had previously performed modifications from its original state to Secret Service specifications as a presidential limousine. The vehicle was rebuilt to include a bulletproof roof, titanium armour plating and bullet-resistant glass. The tyres were reinforced with internal aluminium rims to prevent them from flattening, and the passenger compartment was refurbished to eliminate the damage sustained during the assassination.

X-100 remained in service for 15 more years, occasionally transporting presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and other dignitaries, its odometer reflecting over 50,000 ground miles. Retired in the late Seventies, the limousine was later placed on permanent display at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Moments before the fatal shots ring out, President Kennedy and his wife, Jacqueline, smile broadly from the back seat of their limousine as it passes an adoring crowd in Dallas, Texas. Governor John Connally of Texas, who was wounded, and his wife, Nellie, occupy the seats just forward



Between the first and second shots that struck him, Kennedy raises his left hand to his throat, and Mrs Kennedy reaches out to him

President and Mrs John F Kennedy are greeted by Texas governor John Connally on arrival at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, on 22 November 1963

STRANGE BURIAL OF OSWALD

OSWALD WAS INTERRED QUIETLY BUT HAS NOT RESTED IN PEACE

Lee Harvey Oswald died less than two hours after being shot by Jack Ruby. Paul Groody of the Miller Funeral Home made the necessary arrangements at the request of law enforcement, telling co-workers that they were for a 75-year-old man. The funeral was scheduled for 4pm on 25 November 1963. Only Oswald's widow, Marina, his mother, law enforcement officers, and the media were present at Shannon Rose Hill Memorial Park in Fort Worth.

Several clergymen had declined to participate, and reporters had to serve as pallbearers. Reverend Louis Saunders of the local Council of Churches stated: "Mrs Oswald tells me that her son, Lee Harvey, was a good boy and that she loved him. And today, Lord, we commit his spirit to your divine care."

Four years later, vandals stole Oswald's headstone. His mother replaced it, keeping the original in her home after it was recovered. In 1981, Oswald's body was exhumed for testing to verify that the remains were his. The original coffin had deteriorated. Funeral home officials told Oswald's brother, Robert, that it would be replaced and the original destroyed. Instead, the funeral home put it up for auction. A judge later ordered the home to return the coffin to the family and pay Robert nearly $90,000.

> "John F Kennedy Jr saluted his fallen father. It was the boy's third birthday"

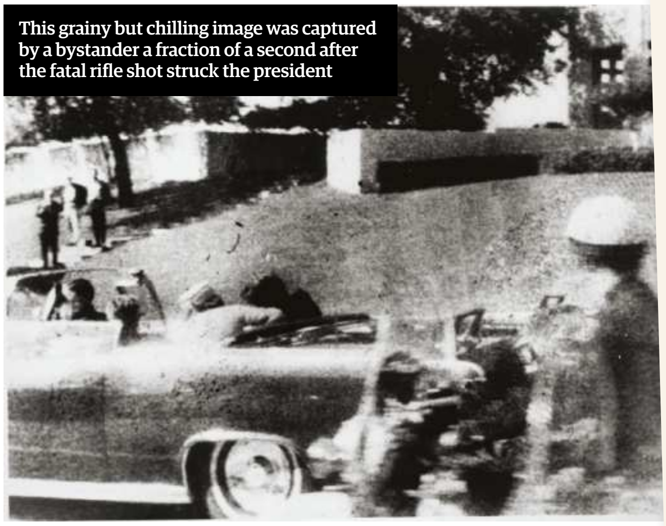
Soon after his capture, reporters peppered Oswald with questions in a hallway at the police station. He shouted in response: "I didn't shoot anybody… They've taken me in because of the fact that I lived in the Soviet Union. I'm just a patsy!" During a subsequent press conference, he asserted that he was unaware at the time that he was the suspect in connection with the president's assassination.

By 2pm on 22 November, the body of the slain president had been placed in a bronze coffin and, after an apparent squabble with local officials over jurisdiction, was headed to Love Field for loading aboard Air Force One and the flight back to Washington, DC. Asked if she wished to change out of her bloodstained clothing, Mrs Kennedy declined, saying: "I want them to see what they have done to Jack." Within the hour, Vice President Lyndon B Johnson, flanked by his wife, Lady Bird, and Mrs Kennedy, was sworn in as president of the United States in the crowded corridor of Air Force One. Federal Judge Sarah T Hughes of the Northern District of Texas administered the oath of office.

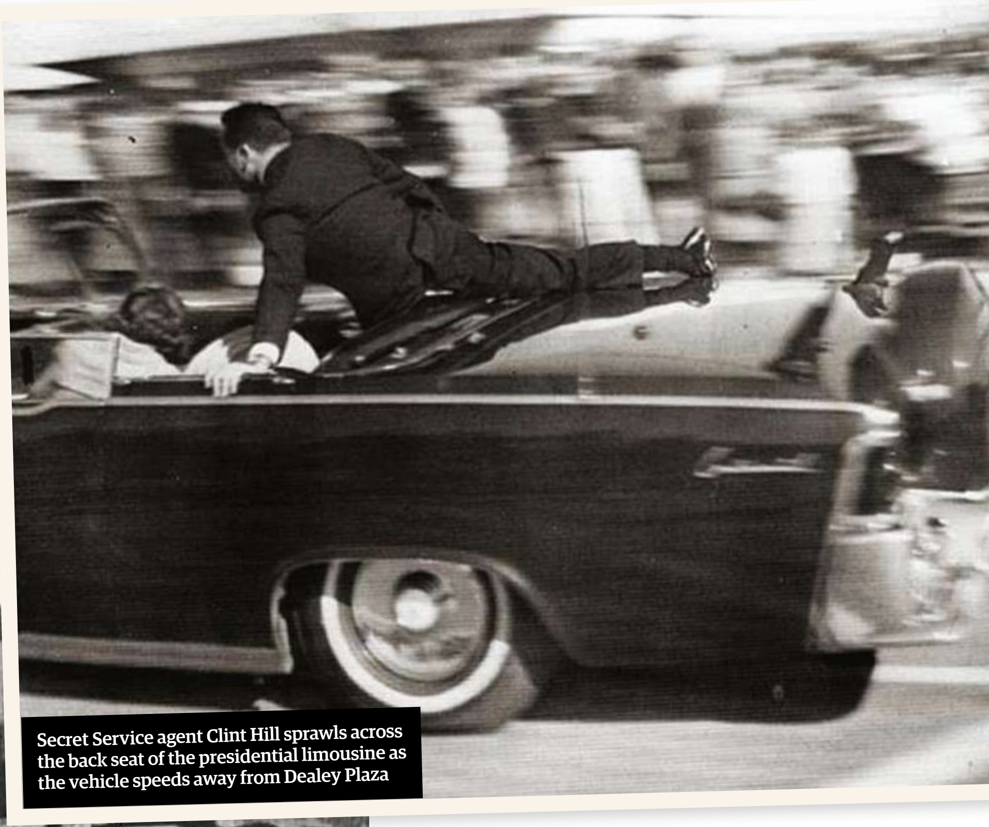
Air Force One arrived at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, at 6pm, and the president's body was transported to Bethesda Naval Hospital, where an autopsy was performed. From there, the coffin was draped in the national flag and moved to the East Room of the White House. On Sunday 24 November, it was relocated to the rotunda of the US Capitol aboard a caisson drawn by six grey horses. A seventh horse, jet black, riderless and with boots reversed in the stirrups, followed. As the president's body lay in state, the rotunda was opened to the public, and an estimated 250,000 people filed past to pay their respects before the hour of the funeral. One of the most poignant images of the tragic weekend depicted Mrs Kennedy kneeling, along with her six-year-old daughter, Caroline, at the president's bier.

The First Lady had requested that the funeral and related ceremonies be patterned after those of President Abraham Lincoln, felled by assassin John Wilkes Booth a century earlier. Attended by representatives of 53 countries, 18 of them presidents, the state funeral took place on the morning of Monday 25 November. Mrs Kennedy and other members of the family led the procession to St Matthew's Cathedral on foot. Cardinal Richard Cushing conducted the Mass, and as the coffin was borne from the cathedral, John F Kennedy Jr stepped forward to salute his fallen father. It was the boy's third birthday, and the moment was captured by photographer Stan Stearns. The image became an American icon, a touch of innocence amid a torrent of national tragedy.

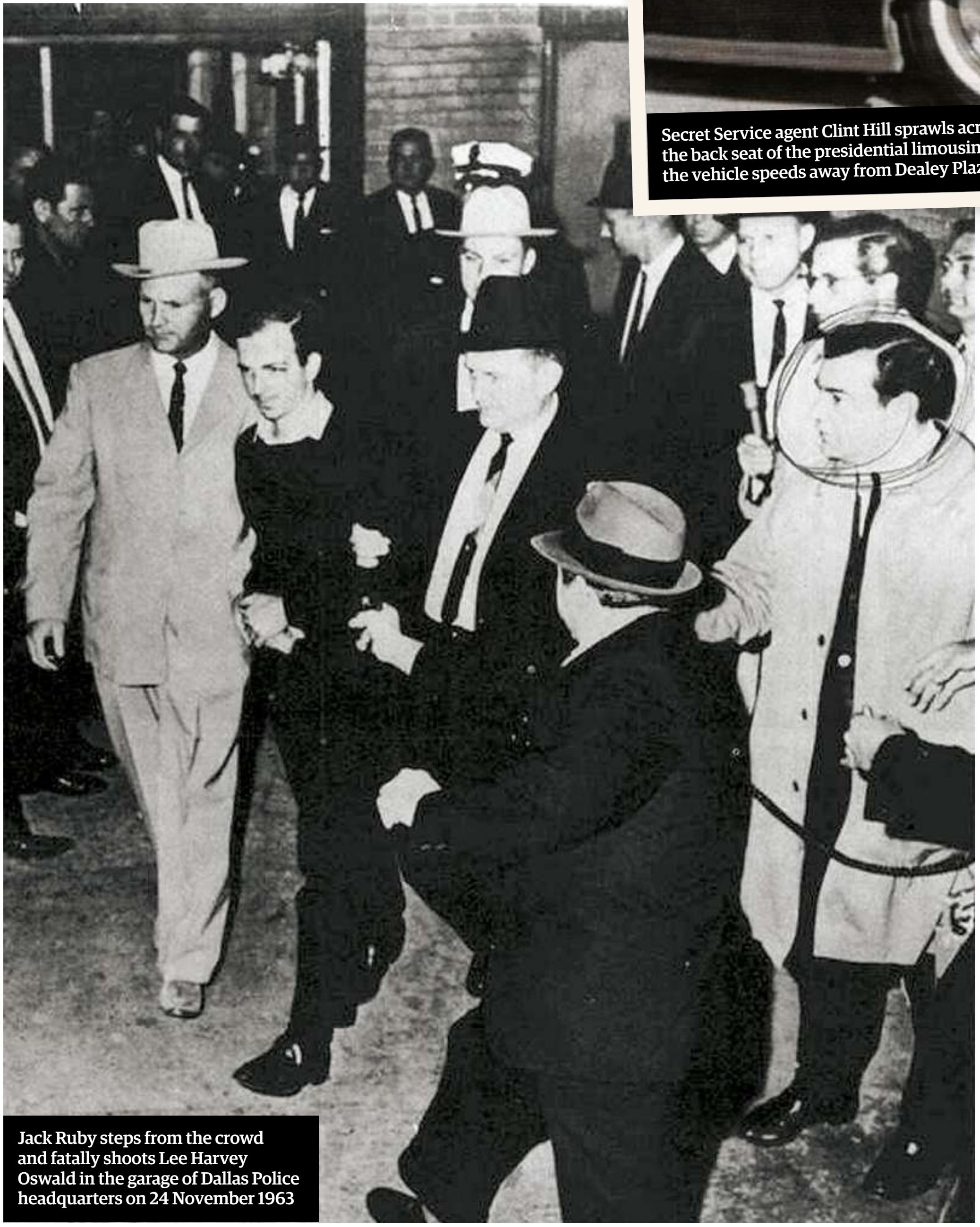
President Kennedy was laid to rest in section 45 of Arlington National Cemetery. With his brothers, Robert and Ted, by her side, Mrs Kennedy lit the



This grainy but chilling image was captured by a bystander a fraction of a second after the fatal rifle shot struck the president



Secret Service agent Clint Hill sprawls across the back seat of the presidential limousine as the vehicle speeds away from Dealey Plaza



Jack Ruby steps from the crowd and fatally shoots Lee Harvey Oswald in the garage of Dallas Police headquarters on 24 November 1963

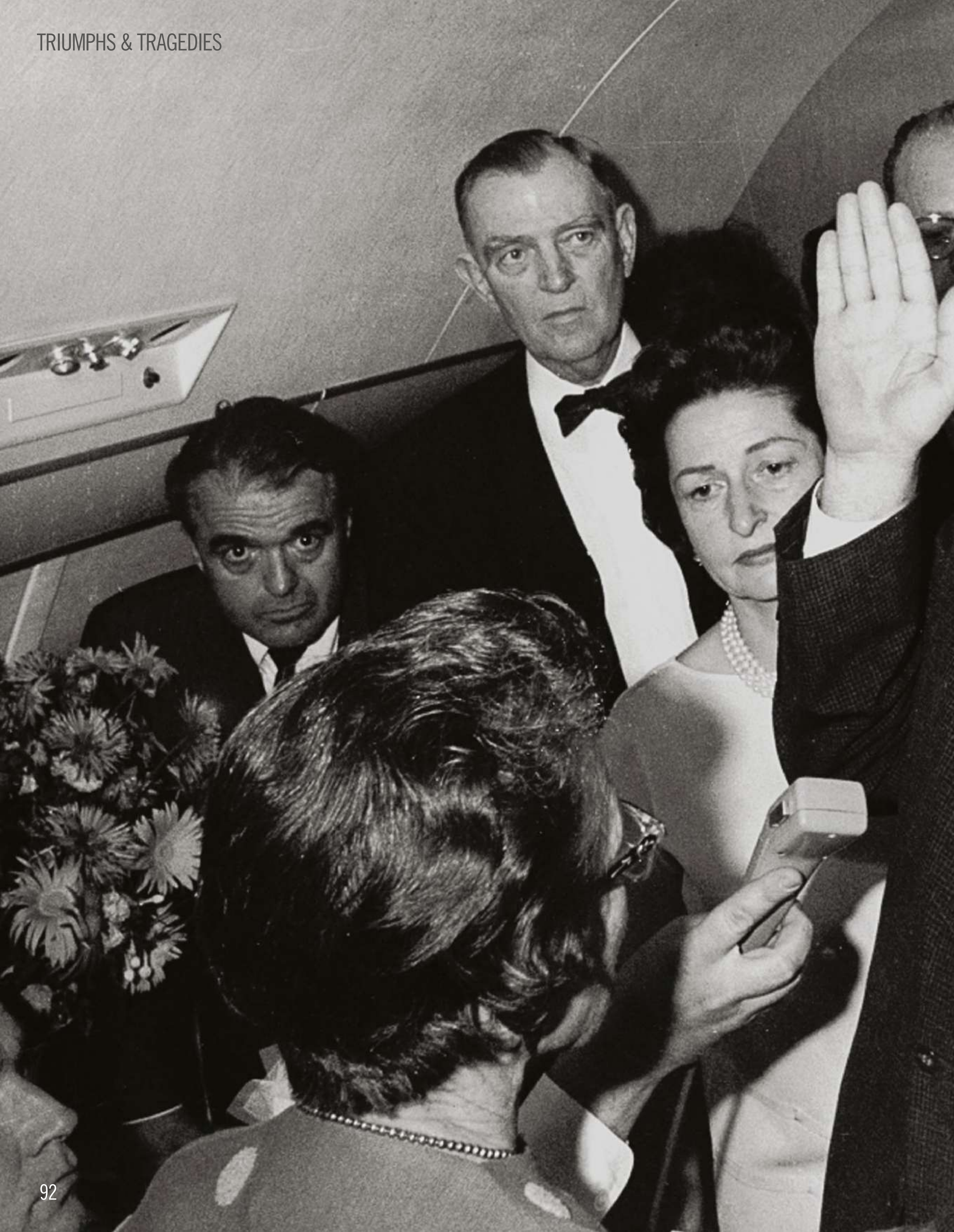
eternal flame, marking the grave on the slope below Arlington House.

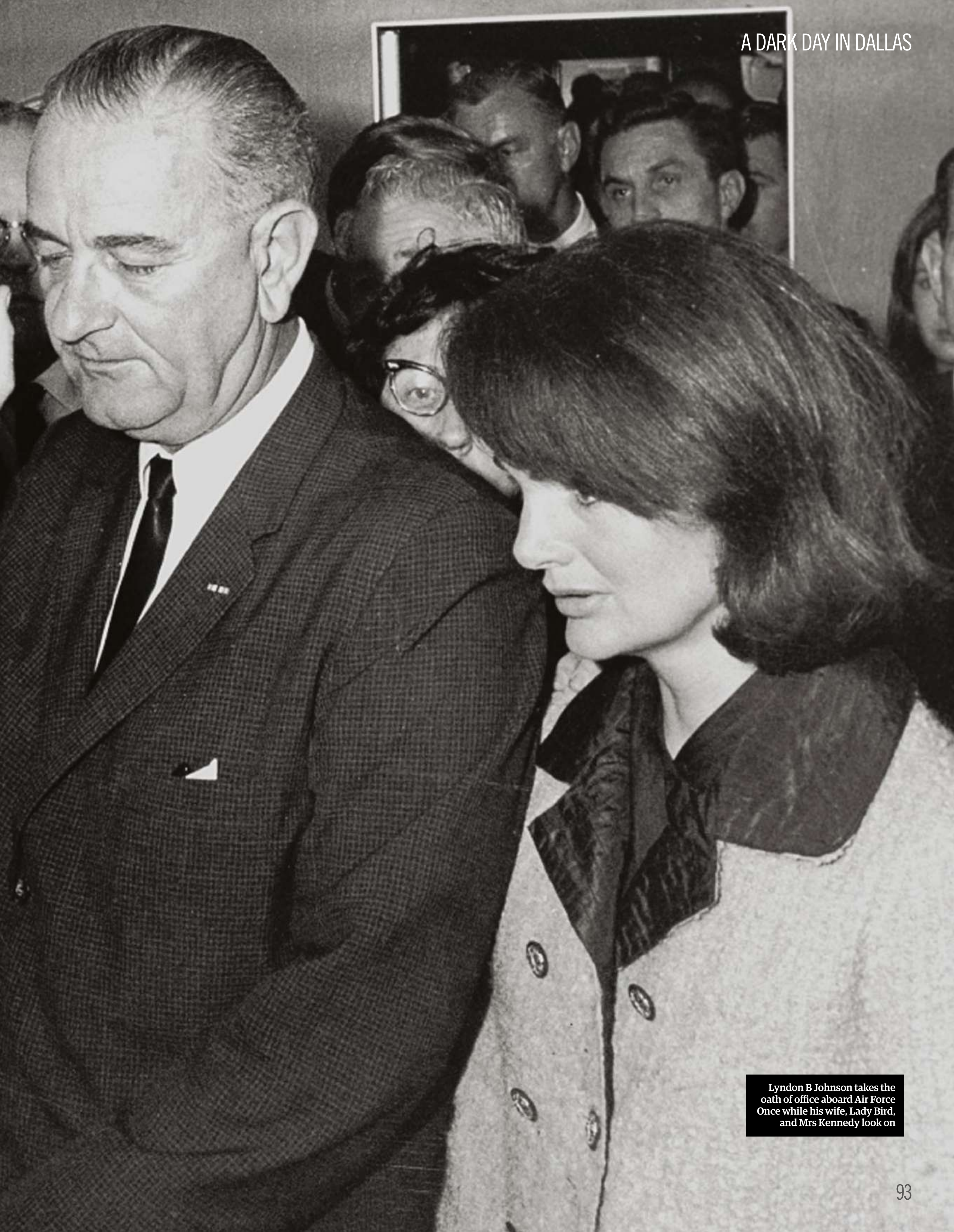
Lee Harvey Oswald never stood trial for murder. His life was taken in a bizarre turn of events that played out on national television on the morning of 24 November. As the accused assassin was being transferred from police headquarters to the county jail, which was deemed more secure, he was escorted in handcuffs into the headquarters garage. Suddenly, Jack Ruby, a 52-year-old nightclub owner with reported ties to organised crime, stepped from the crowd and shot Oswald in the stomach at point-blank range, fatally wounding him. The televised murder of Oswald only deepened the anguish of the American people, shaken to the core by the violence, horror and heartache that so swiftly had gripped the national consciousness.

On 29 November 1963, President Johnson appointed a commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren to investigate the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. From the outset, rumours of conspiracy swirled. A year later, however, the Warren Commission concluded in its report that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone.

Subsequent inquiries, official and unofficial, have failed to quell the lingering discourse on the surreal events of those terrible days in November 1963, which remain a curious blend of fact, fantasy and assumption tinged with the pangs of what might have been. A nation had lost its leader, and with him perished the golden days of sun-splashed, youthful exuberance that characterised the public image of John F Kennedy.

© Everett Collection Historical / Walter Oleksy / Alamy Stock Photo





Lyndon B Johnson takes the oath of office aboard Air Force Once while his wife, Lady Bird, and Mrs Kennedy look on

Once almost written off by his father as the 'runt' of the family, because of his slight stature, Bobby Kennedy had to struggle for attention in his early years, but eventually became his older brother's closest confidant and advisor

THE MOST VULNERABLE OF THE KENNEDYS

THE KENNEDY DYNASTY HAD MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF BOTH TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY, AND BOBBY WAS NO EXCEPTION

The idea of a 'Kennedy curse' was perhaps inevitable given the depth and scale of tragedy that has haunted America's most famous political family. Plane crashes, drug overdoses and assassinations have all conspired to rob the family of its brightest stars, and no part of the Kennedy dynasty appears able to escape unscathed.

Joseph Jr, the original centrepiece of Joseph Sr's bid for the White House, died during World War II; John was assassinated after winning the presidency; and Bobby himself was killed while campaigning for the Democratic nomination. Before he died, JFK and his wife, Jackie, had suffered through miscarriages and premature births. A Kennedy daughter, Rosemary, was severely handicapped during a botched lobotomy, while another, Kathleen, was widowed during the war and then killed in a plane crash.

But the Kennedy story is not solely one of tragedy. JFK became his country's first Catholic president. His father served President Roosevelt as ambassador to Britain, and his younger brother rose to the post of attorney general and subsequently bid for the White House himself. The many accomplishments the Kennedy's enjoyed while in power meant theirs is a story of triumph as well as tragedy.

For Bobby, the triumphs would not be quite so dazzling as his older brother's, but they remained notable. Once almost written off by his father as the 'runt' of the family, because of his slight

Bobby advised JFK honestly and selflessly when his brother was president stature, he had to struggle for attention in his early years, but eventually became his older brother's closest confidant and advisor.

A talented, natural politician, he helped John reach the Senate in 1952 and the White House in 1960, orchestrating campaigns that managed to overcome the question of religion, and focus instead on patriotism and service. Bobby advised his brother honestly and selflessly, and some of his greatest triumphs came from his political service.

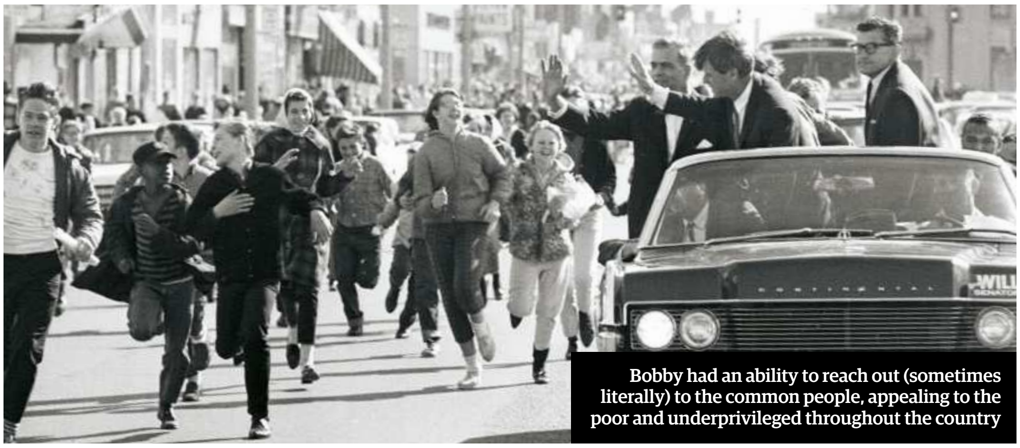
The growth of the civil rights movement seemed to catch the Kennedy boys off guard, though. Robert Sargent Shriver, the husband of Eunice Kennedy, had been brought into John's presidential campaign to act as a liaison with prominent African-American leaders, but it was Bobby who found himself drawn into the growing crisis. It took many years for him to become convinced by the need for radical change in America, although the bigotry associated with the 1960 campaign convinced him the matter would need to be addressed.

In 1963 he met with key figures, including the writer James Baldwin, but he frustrated his audience with his out-of-touch attitude. However, Bobby did make the prescient comment that an African-American could be president within 50 years.

Three years later, he was haranguing the Pope himself, following a trip to South Africa in which the ugliness of apartheid had been inescapable. Although the realities of America at the time made such issues as desegregation political dynamite, Bobby became a committed convert to the cause of civil rights. While in South Africa, shocked at the extent to which the ruling white class defended their institution, he had asked the question: "Suppose God is black?" much to the shock of his audience, who had obviously never considered such a possibility.

From the rough-edged, aggressive politician of his early days, Bobby had mellowed into a more thoughtful, considered man in his role of attorney general. Journalist Walter Isaacson would go so far as to label him "arguably the best attorney general in history." As he matured, he became if anything more committed to the cause of the downtrodden. Viewing his own family history as a struggle against oppression and bigotry, he saw it as his duty to confront it wherever he could.

"How his face had aged in the years I'd known him" – John Bartlow Martin, US ambassador to the Dominican Republic. Bobby Kennedy aged visibly following the assassination of his brother



Bobby had an ability to reach out (sometimes literally) to the common people, appealing to the poor and underprivileged throughout the country

> "Some of his greatest triumphs came from political service"

As a senator, Bobby's concern for the underdogs of society continued to develop. The misery of migrant labourers in California came to his attention in 1965, when grape pickers went on strike against the appalling conditions they were forced to work in. A Senate subcommittee hearing was scheduled to discuss the issue, and Bobby attended, quickly finding himself moved to wade into the controversy. With striking workers being vilified in some quarters as communists, Bobby spoke up for them, insisting that they were only standing up for their basic rights.

Cesar Chavez, the charismatic leader of the workers, was impressed by the senator's passion and commitment, which was borne out when Chavez went on hunger strike. Kennedy sent a telegram in support of Chavez, stating that "I fully and unswervingly support the principles which led you to undertake your fast." Bobby's religion no doubt contributed to his interest in the struggle, with the Mexican-American workers being universally Catholic, but his concern grew more out of a deep sense of the injustice heaped upon them. "With Senator Kennedy," Chavez commented, "it was like he was one of ours."

His growing concern with social justice also drove Bobby's interest in immigration reform, one of the prime goals of his brother's presidency. After JFK's death, Bobby and his younger brother, Teddy, continued to push for the reform that John had believed in. "It doesn't make any sense that we discriminate against people because of the colour of their skin," he commented, "and it doesn't make any sense when we discriminate because of the place of their birth."

The passing of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 would see the end of the 'national origins formula' that had been in force since 1921. Before the Senate voted, Bobby quoted the words of Oscar Handlin, a professor of history at Harvard, who had stated that the new law would "remedy wrongs of 40 years standing." Lyndon Johnson,

Nobody except Bobby was going to be the first to climb the Canadian peak named in honour of his brother, Mount Kennedy

Following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr, Bobby toured Washington to see for himself the damage caused by the angry rioting that had followed

who signed the bill into law, made no mention of the efforts of Bobby and Teddy Kennedy, but it was nontheless a personal triumph for them in memory of their older brother.

Without doubt, the death of his brother, John, was the greatest tragedy of Bobby's life. It was painful not merely because of the obvious family bond, but because he had felt they were genuinely on the path to doing great things. Not only was a beloved brother dead, there was also a sense that a great opportunity had been taken away, and the senseless nature of the killing even led him to question his religion.

Family friend Charles Spalding remembered how Bobby fought to hold himself together when his brother's coffin was brought to the White House prior to the funeral. After leaving Bobby in his room, Spalding heard Bobby break down and cry out: "Why, God?"

Clinging on to a sense of duty was Bobby's way of handling the tragedy, and offering support and strength to the grief-stricken Jackie certainly helped him to get through those awful early days following the assassination. This care for others carried over into the way he handled things with his children as well. To his oldest son, Joe, he penned a letter spelling out the boy's responsibilities. "You are the oldest of all the male grandchildren," he wrote. "You have a special and particular responsibility now which I know you will fulfil."

Despite his show of strength for others, and his deep sense of responsibility and duty to his brother's memory, Bobby was completely devastated by his

The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act was a personal triumph, as Bobby and Teddy helped to push through the vision of their fallen brother

THE ROAD TO ENLIGHTENMENT

IT TOOK YEARS FOR BOBBY TO FULLY EMBRACE THE CAUSE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Bobby Kennedy's meeting with prominent African Americans in 1963 showed how far he had to go in order to fully understand the civil rights movement. Inviting a group of artists, singers, actors and writers, including the author of *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin, to his father's Manhattan apartment, Bobby went on to demonstrate his fundamental lack of understanding about the issue.

Bobby's insistence that African Americans were just another minority, as the Irish were, and that they merely needed to be patient, exasperated his audience. "We were all a bit shocked by the extent of his naivety," Baldwin later commented. Bobby believed his father's plush apartment would demonstrate just how far an oppressed minority could advance in a few generations, but to Baldwin and his friends it was simply another example of privileged white Americans having no idea how prejudice could hold a community down. "Your family has been here for three generations," Baldwin pointed out to Bobby. "My family has been here far longer than that. Why is your brother at the top while we are still so far away?"

An assertion by one of his guests that he would not fight for a country that discriminated against him infuriated the attorney general, but at the same time a message was being delivered. According to Baldwin, the Kennedys needed to view civil rights as a moral issue, rather than a political one. It was a message that would slowly hit home over the coming years, paving the way for Bobby's final acceptance of the moral imperative to do something about the crushing inequality in his country.

© Bill Eppridge / The LIFE Picture Collection / Getty images

> "He had felt they were on the path to doing great things"

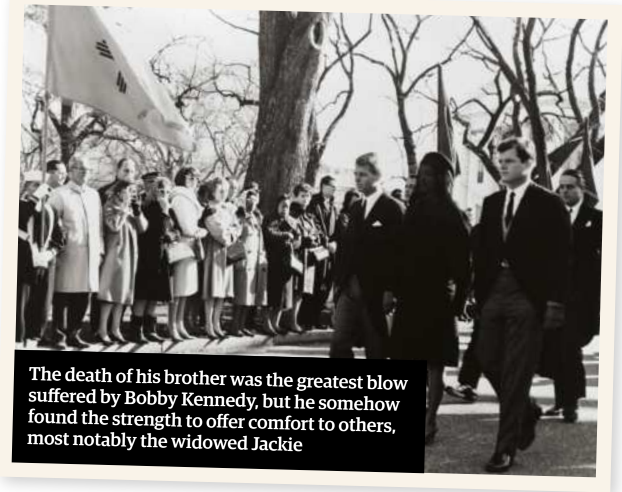
loss. "It was much harder for him than anybody," said his long-time friend, Lem Billings. "He had put his brother's career absolutely first. He didn't know where he was. Everything was just pulled out from under him."

"He seemed the most vulnerable of the Kennedys," remembered speechwriter Michael Novak, and that vulnerability showed itself once more after the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968. Deeply upset, Bobby issued a rallying cry for his nation. "What we need in the United States is not division," he insisted. "What we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but love, and wisdom, and compassion towards one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be black or white."

Following the death of JFK, a mountain in the Saint Elias mountain range in Canada was named 'Mount Kennedy' in his honour. It was the highest mountain on the continent that had not yet been climbed, and the year after its dedication it was scaled by none other than Robert F Kennedy, a poignant tribute to his fallen brother.

Bobby's own assassination would be the final tragedy of his life, although it is clear he had accepted the inevitability of somebody making the attempt. "There is no way to protect a candidate during the electoral campaign," he commented during his presidential campaign. "You must give yourself to the crowd and from then on you must take your chances."

Bobby's experiences of the capriciousness of fate had not exactly hardened him, but made him fatalistic. Mercifully, he was spared the knowledge that tragedy would continue to stalk his family after his death (his sons, David and Michael, would die young), but there were further triumphs also, as the Kennedy tradition of political service continued through his oldest son, Joe.



The death of his brother was the greatest blow suffered by Bobby Kennedy, but he somehow found the strength to offer comfort to others, most notably the widowed Jackie

Oleg Cassini

Edward Kennedy was the youngest child in the Kennedy clan by four years, and benefitted from slightly less restrictive parenting than his siblings

THE SOCIAL REFORMER

HOW TED, THE YOUNGEST KENNEDY SIBLING, ACHIEVED SO MUCH YET BECAME SUCH A DIVISIVE FIGURE

It was Ted Kennedy's fate to be the sole standard bearer of his family's political hopes. He began life, however, as the youngest in a crowd of nine children. His parents expected all of their children to serve in public life. Yet Ted, the baby of the family, was not subjected to the same demands as his elder brothers, Joe Jr, John and Robert. The premature deaths of his eldest brother, Joe Jr, and his sister, Kathleen, and the lobotomising of his eldest sister, Rosemary, also encouraged Ted to develop as the portly jester in the Kennedy court.

Unlike his brothers, Ted did not accumulate a record of academic excellence, or military bravery. Joe Jr had completed a tour of operations as a pilot before his accidental death as a test pilot in August 1944. Jack had won medals as the captain of a Navy torpedo boat in the Pacific. Bobby was, his father said, as "hard as nails," and as attorney general would take on the Mafia. Ted attended Harvard, like his father and brothers before him, but he excelled only at sports, especially American Football.

Ted was unable to demonstrate the public integrity expected by his traditionally Catholic parents. Faced with expulsion from Harvard if he failed a Spanish examination, he engaged another student to sit the examination in his stead. Caught cheating, he was suspended for two years. He spent that time in the US Army, his father securing him assignment as a guard to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) in Paris. Returning to Harvard in 1952, he finished his degree successfully, turned down an approach to turn professional footballer with the Green Bay Packers, and entered law school.

> "Ted attended Harvard, like his father and brothers"

Inheriting brother John's Senate seat that needed to be filled after his election to the presidential office on 22 November 1963, Ted Kennedy was presiding over the Senate when he received the news that 'Jack' had been shot in Dallas. Afterwards, his brother, Robert, told him that Jack was dead. Ted and his sister, Eunice, flew to the family compound at Hyannis Port on Cape Cod to tell their mother and their invalid father, who had suffered a stroke several months earlier.

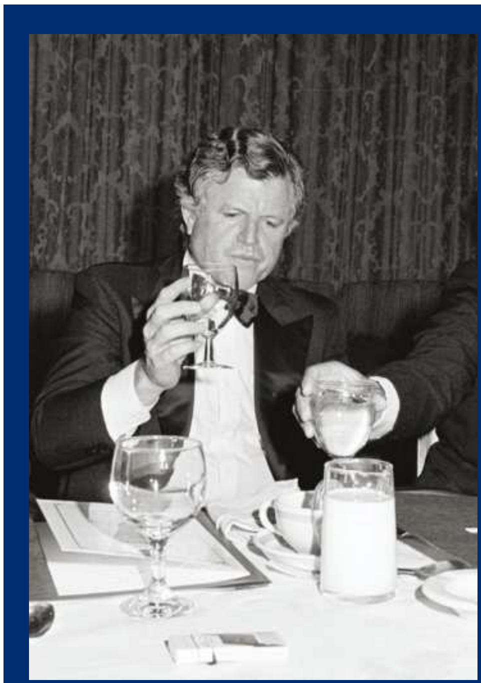
Six months later, Ted Kennedy nearly became the next member of the family to suffer from the 'Curse of the Kennedys'. On 19 June 1964, Kennedy was a passenger in a private plane that became caught in bad weather during a flight from Washington, DC to Massachusetts. Attempting to land at Barnes Airport in Westfield, Massachusetts, the plane crashed into an apple orchard. The pilot and one of Kennedy's aides were killed.

Kennedy, dragged from the wreckage by another senator, Birch Bayh, had severe spinal injuries, several broken ribs, a punctured lung and internal bleeding. He spent the rest of the year in hospital, and would suffer constant back pain for the rest of his life. During his convalescence, his wife, Joan, campaigned on his behalf in the 1964 Senate elections. He won by a margin of three to one.

Ted Kennedy's attitude to America's deepening involvement in Vietnam extended President Kennedy's intentions while deviating from his policies. Ted, like his brothers, was a forceful Cold War warrior, and believed in the duty to project American power as the counterweight to Russian

With President Nixon at a meeting with representatives of the League of Women Voters, 17 April 1969

President Kennedy introduces his youngest brother, Senator Ted Kennedy, at a Democratic Party fundraiser in Boston, October 1963



TED KENNEDY'S BATTLE WITH DRINK

DRINKING WAS PART OF THE KENNEDY MYSTIQUE, BUT BY THE EIGHTIES, TED KENNEDY WAS OUT OF CONTROL

Kennedy's biographers agree that, though drinking and chasing women had always been his preferred recreations, he lost control of his behaviour in the wake of Robert Kennedy's assassination in 1968. By the Eighties, Kennedy's behaviour had become notorious in Washington, DC and beyond; his wife was also an alcoholic; and his marriage was disintegrating.

He was photographed walking naked on the public beach near the family compound at Palm Beach, Florida, and having sex on a boat while on holiday in Europe. In La Brasserie – a restaurant in the capital popular with the society and political set – Kennedy and his drinking partner, fellow Democratic senator Chris Dodd, became notorious for their behaviour. They drank so heavily that the management, finding their waiter service unable to keep up with Kennedy's orders, set up a small bar at the side of their table. One night, they were so drunk that Kennedy, a heavy-set, six foot two, picked up a waitress, threw her on the table, and pretended to have sex with her.

In 1985, when Kennedy was publicly mulling another run at the Democratic nomination, *GQ* magazine ran an exposé that depicted Kennedy as a binge drinker and sex pest. Two 16-year-old girls working as pages (interns) in the Senate testified that Kennedy, then in his mid-50s, had pulled over in a limousine, lowered the window and propositioned them. A disgruntled aide described another member of staff as Kennedy's 'pimp'.

After the article, Kennedy ceased to air the possibility of a nomination run. It would be several years, however, until his second wife, Victoria Reggie, helped him to master his demons.

TED KENNEDY'S FAMILY

A FATHER OF FIVE, KENNEDY ALSO BECAME A SUBSTITUTE PARENT TO HIS DEAD BROTHERS' CHILDREN

After the assassinations of John F Kennedy and Bobby Kennedy, Ted Kennedy became a substitute father to John's four children and Robert's 11 children. In 1992, he became adoptive father to his second wife's children, Curran and Caroline. Previously, he had three children with his first wife, Jean Bennett Kennedy (1958-1982).

Their daughter, Kara, was born in 1958, and became a film producer, working with her aunt, Jean Kennedy Smith, at Very Special Arts, a film company specialising in films about those living with disability. Diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 42, Kara Kennedy died in 2011, two years after her father's death.

Their elder son, Edward Jr, was born in 1961. In 1973, aged 12, he was diagnosed with an osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, and had his right leg amputated. He worked as a lawyer, and in 2015 entered the Connecticut Senate.

Their younger son, Patrick Kennedy II, was born in 1967. In 1995, he entered Congress for Rhode Island. A heavy user of drugs and alcohol, in 2006, Patrick crashed his car in Washington, DC, and entered treatment for prescription drug addiction. When Ted died in 2011, Patrick, Jr was the last Kennedy to be serving in public office. He retired in 2015.

and Chinese communism. Having supported President Kennedy's placement of American troops in Vietnam, and then supported President Johnson's intensification of the war through the 'draft' (military conscription), he became disillusioned with the war.

In early 1968, he visited Vietnam, and concluded that the United States should either pressure its South Vietnamese allies to improve their governance, or prepare for withdrawal. The response of American public opinion to the Tet Offensive of January 1968, a surprise attack that demonstrated how far the US was from winning the war, bore out Kennedy's observations.

> "Ted was in San Francisco on the night when Robert, having just won the California primary, was assassinated"

In the same year, Kennedy helped to organise Robert Kennedy's run for nomination as the Democratic presidential candidate. Ted was in San Francisco on the night of 4/5 June 1968 when Robert, having just won the California primary, was assassinated in the Ambassador Hotel by a Palestinian-Jordanian named Sirhan Sirhan. Ted was with his brother when he died the following day. Ted's speech at Robert's funeral marked his public maturation as a politician, and his emergence in the most tragic of circumstances from the shadows of his elder brothers.

"My brother need not be idealized," he said, "or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life; to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it. Those of us who loved him and who take him to his rest today, pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will some day come to pass for all the world. As he said many times, in many parts of this nation, to those he touched and who sought to touch him: 'Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not'."

That wasn't the end of tragedies for Ted, though. On the night of 18 July 1969, Ted had left a party in Chappaquiddick with Mary Jo Kopechne, and drove his car off a bridge and into the water of Poucha Pond inlet. Worse still, he left the scene of the accident with Kopechne still trapped underwater in the car. Inexplicably, he did not contact the police for ten hours, after which Kopechne's body had been found.

Robert Kennedy and Ted Kennedy flank Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy at President John F Kennedy's funeral, Washington, DC, 25 November 1963

The Kennedy family's lawyers were able to secure a private inquest into Kopechne's death. They could not stop the judge from concluding that Kennedy's negligent driving had "contributed" to Kopechne's death, and that parts of his story were simply "untrue." Nor could they prevent John Farrar, the fire service diver who had recovered Kopechne's body, from testifying that he judged that Kopechne had survived "for at least two hours down there," and that if Ted Kennedy had called the emergency services, she would, in Farrar's opinion, have survived.

Kennedy received a two-month suspended sentence. At the inquest, he philosophically wondered if "a curse actually did hang over all the Kennedys." Afterwards, he read a statement offering his resignation to the people of Massachusetts and, by quoting from his late brother the president's book *Profiles in Courage*, suggesting that he still contained political promise.

He did, but the night at Chappaquiddick permanently foreshortened his prospects. Chappaquiddick also overshadowed his considerable legislative achievements, because the open question of whether Ted Kennedy would run for president like his brothers before him necessarily led to a consideration of his character in the light of Chappaquiddick.

Privately, Kennedy had troubles of his own. In 1973, his son, Edward Kennedy Jr, developed bone cancer and had a leg amputated, while his other son, Patrick, suffered from severe asthma attacks. His wife, Jean, was treated for alcoholism and stress, and arrested for drunk driving after a car crash. Kennedy too was struggling with drink.

The arrival of Jimmy Carter at the White House in 1976 promised a clearer path to the health insurance reform for which Kennedy had worked since 1970, but Kennedy and Carter could not reach a productive working relationship. Before the 1976 election, candidate Carter had promised a bill that resembled Kennedy's proposals from 1970. But President Carter was more intent on balancing the fiscal books during a period that he described as "malaise," than on expanding the federal government financing of healthcare. Kennedy had announced his "firm, final and unconditional" decision not to compete against Carter – Chappaquiddick was still in the news, but his presence in Washington, DC was a challenge to Carter's judgement and stature. Kennedy was too big a politician to blend into the background, but Carter appeared to have no use for him.

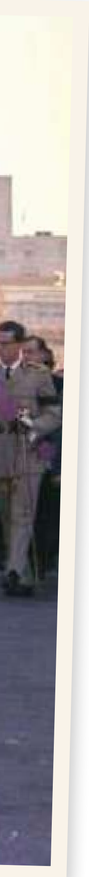
Having originally opposed school-bussing, the use of municipal transportation to force the racial integration of American schools, he became a firm supporter of it. In September 1974, when mostly white crowds protested school-bussing in Boston outside City Hall, Kennedy tried to reason with

Ted Kennedy in New York City in 1984

Kennedy and Carter at the White House, 5 December 1977. In 1978, Kennedy's frustration at Carter's failure to act on healthcare led to an open breach between the two Democrats

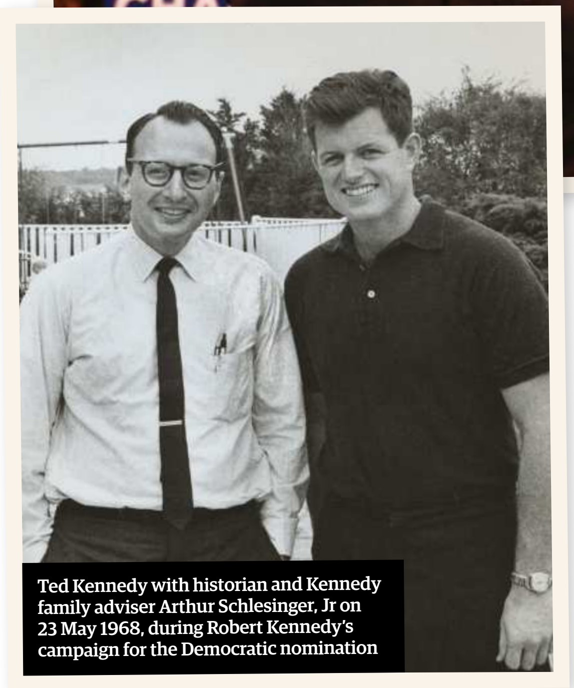
UNITED EXTRACT LABORATORIES
HARVEST SUN PRODUCTS, INC.

Ted Kennedy campaigning in Massachusetts in October 1970



In one of his last public appearances in February 2008, Ted Kennedy campaigns in Hartford, Connecticut with Democratic candidate Barack Obama

CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN
STAND FOR CHANGE



Ted Kennedy with historian and Kennedy family adviser Arthur Schlesinger, Jr on 23 May 1968, during Robert Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic nomination

the crowd. He was pelted with eggs and tomatoes, and personal insults too, and had to retreat into the John F Kennedy Federal Building.

More productively, his famous relationship to President Kennedy ensured that he was recognised internationally. Ted Kennedy travelled relentlessly through the decade, including to Soviet Russia and Communist China. His unsolicited opinion on the Troubles in Northern Ireland, that Ulster was "becoming Britain's Vietnam" and that the Ulster Protestants should "go back to Britain" when Northern Ireland was already internationally recognised as British territory, was not welcomed in Britain. He did, however, perform invaluable work on behalf of Vietnamese refugees.

In July 1978, Carter had refused to commit to a bill for comprehensive healthcare coverage. At the Democratic midterm convention that December, Kennedy publicly criticised the president. Universal healthcare, he said, was "a basic right, not just an expensive privilege for the few." He followed this speech by proposing a bill that revived his 1970 bill, only for Carter to propose his own, less expansive bill. Neither bill progressed in Congress, and neither Carter nor Kennedy seemed willing to collaborate. Afterwards, Carter blamed Kennedy for causing the failure of his bill, while Kennedy blamed Carter, a "difficult man to work with."

By now, Kennedy had accumulated further baggage as a candidate. His marriage had ended in divorce in 1981. He was drinking heavily. His weight fluctuated, and his face became blotchy. The newspapers carried pictures of his series of girlfriends, and stories of drunken episodes in Washington restaurants, including one in 1985 in which a waitress alleged that Kennedy had groped her. In 1987, Kennedy was seen in the back room of a restaurant with a young female lobbyist in a state of partial undress.

Despite Kennedy's legislative achievements, and despite his skill for creating cross-party alliance, he was now an intensely divisive figure. While Democrats celebrated him as the 'Lion of the Senate', securing the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Republicans mocked him as a sleazy drunk. When he took a holiday to Europe in 1989, paparazzi photographed him having sex on a motorboat. On Easter weekend 1991 at the family's Palm Beach estate, Kennedy - already drunk - persuaded his son, Patrick, and his nephew, William Kennedy Smith, to join him late at night for more drinks at a nearby bar. The younger men picked up two women, and the evening ended with William Kennedy Smith accused of rape.

Although Kennedy claimed that his involvement had been limited to stumbling around drunkenly, the Kennedy Smith trial dominated the news for the rest of 1981. The trial, at which Kennedy

TED KENNEDY LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

THE OVERLOOKED LEGISLATIVE LEGACY OF TED KENNEDY, THE 'LION OF THE SENATE'

The Immigration and Nationality Act

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 replaced the temporary measures of the Emergency Quota Act of 1921, and replaced the historic discrimination against non-European immigration into the United States with new per-country limits for immigrants from all countries in the world.

The National Cancer Act

The signing of the National Cancer Act of 1971 by President Nixon marked the beginning of the federally funded campaign to cure cancer. Ted Kennedy, then chair of the Senate subcommittee on healthcare, was crucial to the preparation of the Act.

No Child Left Behind

No Child Left Behind

In 2001, Kennedy worked across the aisle with the George W Bush administration to secure comprehensive education reform. However, he soon joined the bipartisan disenchantment with the Act's implementation,

The Mental Health Parity Act

In 1996, Kennedy and his son, Patrick, a Rhode Island Congressman, co-sponsored the Mental Health Parity Act, which forced health insurance companies to treat more fairly the victims of mental illness.

Boston School Bussing

Having at first opposed the bussing of children between school districts as a way of breaking up de facto segregation in Massachusetts' schools, Ted Kennedy became a firm supporter of the idea.

President Barack Obama listens as Ted Kennedy addresses a Health Care Summit at the White House, 5 March 2009

testified, was the most watched television trial until the O.J. Simpson trial. Kennedy was ridiculed as a red-nosed and sordid boozer.

His most high-profile act in the Eighties was his personal assault on the integrity of Robert Bork, a Conservative who had been nominated to the Supreme Court by a Republican president. Kennedy and many other Democrats believed that Bork represented a threat to the achievements of the civil rights era. Kennedy publicly attacked "Bork's America" as "a land in which women would be forced into back-alley abortions, blacks would sit at segregated lunch counters, rogue police could break down citizens' doors in midnight raids, school children could not be taught about evolution, writers and artists could be censored at the whims of the government, and the doors of the Federal courts would be shut on the fingers of millions of citizens."

When the Senate Judiciary Committee met in September 1987 to examine Bork's candidacy, Kennedy went on the offensive again. Both the committee and the Senate rejected Bork's nomination. The viciousness of Kennedy's "Bork's America" speech, which bordered on slander, and his partisan assault on the nominating process, which was an abuse of his position on a Senate committee, marked a watershed in the polarisation of Washington politics, and a lowering of the tone which continues to this day.

Kennedy had used his position on the Senate Judiciary Committee to block the nomination of Robert Bork. But now, he had failed to cross-examine another Republican nominee for the Supreme Court, Clarence Thomas, even though Thomas was accused by his ex-employee, Anita Hill, of sexual harassment. The William Kennedy Smith trial, and the ever-present shadow of Chappaquiddick, prevented Kennedy from doing his job. For the first three days of the hearings, he said nothing. On the final day, when he attacked Thomas for his allegedly "shameful" treatment of Hill, he made himself look like a hypocrite, and worse, discredited Hill and her more vocal supporters at the time. The Senate confirmed Thomas on the Supreme Court 52-48, the narrowest margin yet.

Kennedy stayed neutral in the early stages of the competition for the 2008 Democratic nomination between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, but intervened at a late and crucial stage. Unhappy with Bill Clinton's disparagement of Obama, which Kennedy saw as racially tinged, Kennedy announced that it was "time again for a new generation of leadership," and portrayed Obama as the political heir of his brothers, Jack and Robert.

"He was a Rabelaisian figure in the Senate and in life," the *New York Times* wrote after his death, "instantly recognised by his shock of white hair, his florid, oversize face, his booming Boston brogue, his powerful but pained stride. He was a celebrity, sometimes a self-parody, a hearty friend, an implacable foe, a man of large faith and large flaws, a melancholy character who persevered, drank deeply and sang loudly. He was a Kennedy."

"Despite Kennedy's legislative achievements… he was now an intensely divisive figure"

© Everett Collection Historical / MediaPunch Inc / Danita Delimont / Alamy Stock Photo / PL Gould / Getty images

GRACE AMID TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

JACQUELINE KENNEDY BROUGHT PERSONAL REFINEMENT AND ELEGANCE TO THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE EXPANDING THE ROLE OF THE FIRST LADY

President Kennedy's wife was famed for her beauty, poise and love of fashion, as well as her advocacy of the arts

She was, indeed, the First Lady. Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy personified glamour, elegance, grace and quiet dignity during her three years as the spouse of the president of the United States. Hers was a life of magnificent spectacle, tremendous sadness and incomparable composure that captivated the American public and transformed a young woman into a citizen of the world.

She was a child of privilege, born to John Vernou Bouvier III and Janet Lee Bouvier in Southampton, Long Island, New York, on 28 July 1929. Her father, a wealthy Wall Street stockbroker, was nicknamed 'Black Jack' in reference to his perpetual tan and ostentatious lifestyle. Her maternal grandfather, James Thomas Aloysius Lee, was a successful Manhattan attorney and real estate developer. She was the eldest of two daughters. Her sister, Caroline, known simply as Lee, was born in 1933.

Young Jacqueline, already reading children's books at a tender age, began her primary education at Miss Chapin's School in New York City. She was – at the same time – an adorable little girl and a bit troublesome. Her

At the age of six in 1935, young Jacqueline Bouvier posed with a pet spaniel. A precocious child, she was sometimes disruptive in school

On the campaign trail in 1960, the future First Lady smiles as John F Kennedy greets a well-wisher. Jacqueline campaigned for her husband until pregnancy intervened

teacher described her as "a darling child, the prettiest little girl, very clever, very artistic, and full of the devil." Headmistress Ethel Stringfellow noted concerns in her report card, writing: "Jacqueline was given a D in Form because her disturbing conduct in her geography class made it necessary to exclude her from the room." Miss Stringfellow warned the girl that continuing misbehaviour would overshadow her positive attributes, and the situation apparently improved.

Jacqueline inherited her mother's love of horses, and some sources have noted that her first experience on horseback took place not long after she had learned to walk. It was a lifelong obsession, and she became a champion. *The New York Times* reported after the Southtown Horse Show in 1940: "Jacqueline Bouvier, an 11-year-old... from East Hampton, Long Island, scored a double victory in the horsemanship competition. Miss Bouvier achieved a rare distinction. The occasions are few when a young rider wins both contests in the same show."

Still, there were adjustments. Jacqueline's father was a notorious alcoholic and womaniser, and his escapades had led to divorce earlier in the year, a rare occurrence in Roman Catholic families in those days. Two years later, her mother married businessman and stockbroker Hugh Auchincloss. As a teenager, Jacqueline was becoming fluent in French and completing secondary studies at Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut. She continued her academic pursuits at Vassar College in New York, spending a year in France, and graduated from George Washington University in 1951.

Earlier that year, she had submitted an essay entry in the *Vogue* magazine Prix de Paris contest. The prize was six months in Paris as a junior *Vogue* editor, and six months with the publication's office in New York. Nearly 1,300 entries were judged, and Jacqueline won. However, her mother did not want her to leave the country, and she declined the honour. Subsequently, she earned $42.50 a week working for the *Washington Times-Herald* newspaper as its 'inquiring camera girl'. She interviewed people on the streets of the capital, snapping their photographs for publication. Her subjects included Vice President Richard Nixon, his wife, Pat, and daughter, Tricia, and her future husband, congressman John F Kennedy of Massachusetts.

At a dinner party in May 1952, Jacqueline Bouvier and Senator Kennedy were formally introduced by Charles L Bartlett, a syndicated columnist and political reporter. As the relationship warmed, Kennedy was immersed in his election bid for the US Senate. After the campaign's successful conclusion in November, he proposed. The *Times-Herald*, however, sent Jacqueline to London to report on the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. After a month in Europe, she returned and accepted. 700 guests attended the wedding at St Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, and 1,200 celebrated at the reception that followed at Hammersmith Farm, one of the bride's childhood homes, on 12 September 1953.

During the early years of the marriage, Jacqueline stood beside her husband, who underwent multiple surgeries and medical treatments for Addison's Disease and chronic spinal difficulties that stemmed from an injury suffered during World War II. In August 1956, the couple's first child, daughter Arabella, was stillborn.

Jacqueline had encouraged her husband to write the book *Profiles in Courage*, which won a Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1957, and on 27 November

> "She was – at the same time – an adorable little girl and a bit troublesome"

of that year, while John F Kennedy was seeking re-election to a second term in the US Senate, she gave birth to daughter Caroline.

Jacqueline had joined the candidate on the campaign trail as she was able, and her presence provided a boost in the size of crowds and their enthusiasm. Although she was not considered a natural campaigner, she was elegant, attractive and well- though soft-spoken. She was also intelligent, and though rarely commenting publicly on issues of the day, she was thought to offer advice and opinions privately to her husband. When the Kennedy braintrust began considering a run for president, her expected contribution figured prominently in the prospects for victory.

After Kennedy announced his candidacy for president in January 1960, Jacqueline made frequent public appearances, travelling the country. During the campaign, she became pregnant and was advised by doctors to rest. She wrote a syndicated newspaper column called 'Campaign Wife', kept up with correspondence, conducted interviews with the media, and made television appearances. On 8 November, Kennedy defeated Republican candidate Nixon by a narrow margin to win the White House. 17 days later, the couple's second child, John F Kennedy Jr, was born.

On 20 January 1961, Kennedy was sworn in as 35th President of the United States. At the age of 31, Jacqueline brought charm, poise, beauty and style to the role of First Lady. She also discovered

On their wedding day on 12 September 1953, Congressman and Mrs John F Kennedy celebrate their union. After his proposal, she waited more than a month to accept

FAMILY JOY AND SORROW

ONLY TWO OF THE FOUR KENNEDY CHILDREN, CAROLINE AND JOHN JR, SURVIVED TO ADULTHOOD

Arabella

In 1956, Jacqueline Kennedy gave birth to a stillborn daughter. Although she was never given a birth certificate officially naming the child, Jacqueline sentimentally referred to her as Arabella. In 1963, the remains were transferred from a cemetery in Newport, Rhode Island, to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with other immediate family members.

John

Born 25 November 1960, John F Kennedy Jr (nicknamed 'John-John') graduated from Brown University and the New York University School of Law before working as an an attorney, a journalist, and founding the political lifestyle magazine, *George*. He was tragically killed in a plane crash in 1999 when he was just 38 years old.

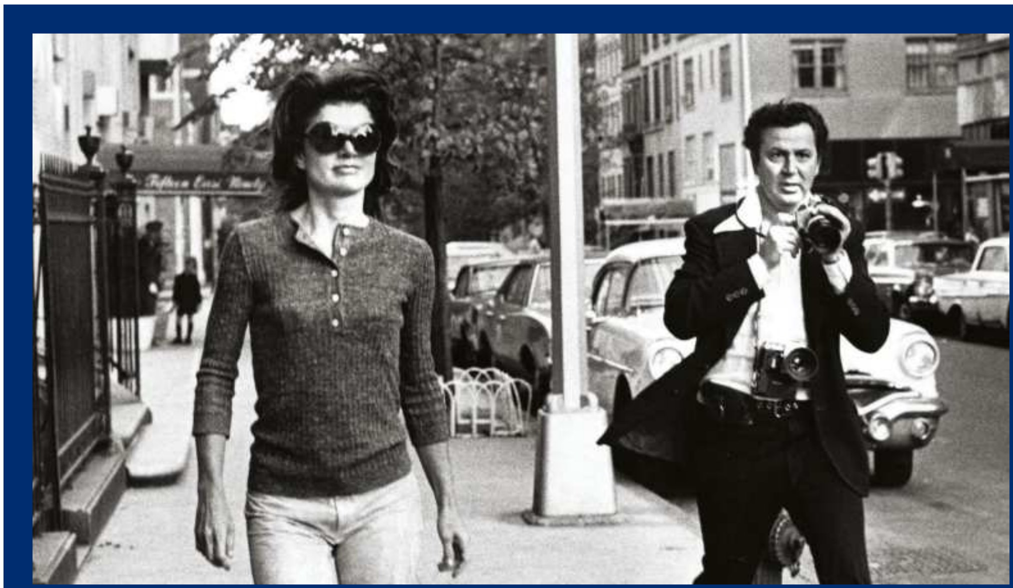
Caroline

Caroline Kennedy, born 27 November 1957, served as US ambassador to Japan from 2013 to 2017. A graduate of Harvard University and Columbia University Law School, she has been active as an author and attorney as well. Married in 1986 to Edwin Schlossberg, she is the mother of three children.

Patrick

Patrick Kennedy was born prematurely by caesarean section on 7 August 1963, and died two days later of infant respiratory distress syndrome (IRDS). A funeral mass was held on 10 August. Buried at Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline, Massachusetts, the remains were later reinterred next to President Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery.

Soon after their marriage, John F Kennedy underwent potentially life-threatening spinal surgery. Jacqueline stands beside him during recovery in December 1954



THE PRYING LENS

THE ORDEAL OF JACQUELINE KENNEDY BROUGHT EARLY ATTENTION TO THE ISSUES SURROUNDING THE PAPARAZZI

He pursued her relentlessly. When she left her apartment, he was often nearby, waiting for a moment to turn his camera towards her and snap a series of images. Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was a favourite subject of photographer Ron Galella, whose work was often acclaimed and decorated the walls of museums. At the same time, Galella was vilified in print as "the Godfather of the US paparazzi culture."

Galella often resorted to invasive and dangerous tactics to take photos of Mrs Kennedy and her children. After an incident during which he jumped in front of John F Kennedy Jr's bicycle while in motion, the Secret Service arrested him. In 1973, Galella sued Jacqueline for wrongful arrest and prosecution. Although a prior restraining order was already in place, the result of the proceedings was another order requiring the aggressive photographer to maintain reasonable distance.

In 1981, the parties returned to court after Galella had violated the order. According to the *Washington Post*, Jacqueline took the witness stand and offered: "He ruined my daughter's graduation, he ruined my son's graduation… He bribed his way into Hyannis, on to a private dock… He made it impossible… I used to go to Hyannis at the beginning of every summer, the happiest time of the year. That began to be gradually intolerable to me with this surveillance…"

Although the unwanted intrusions of Galella and others were a by-product of being a public figure, they were often unnerving. The contentious relationship brought closer scrutiny of the definition of privacy.

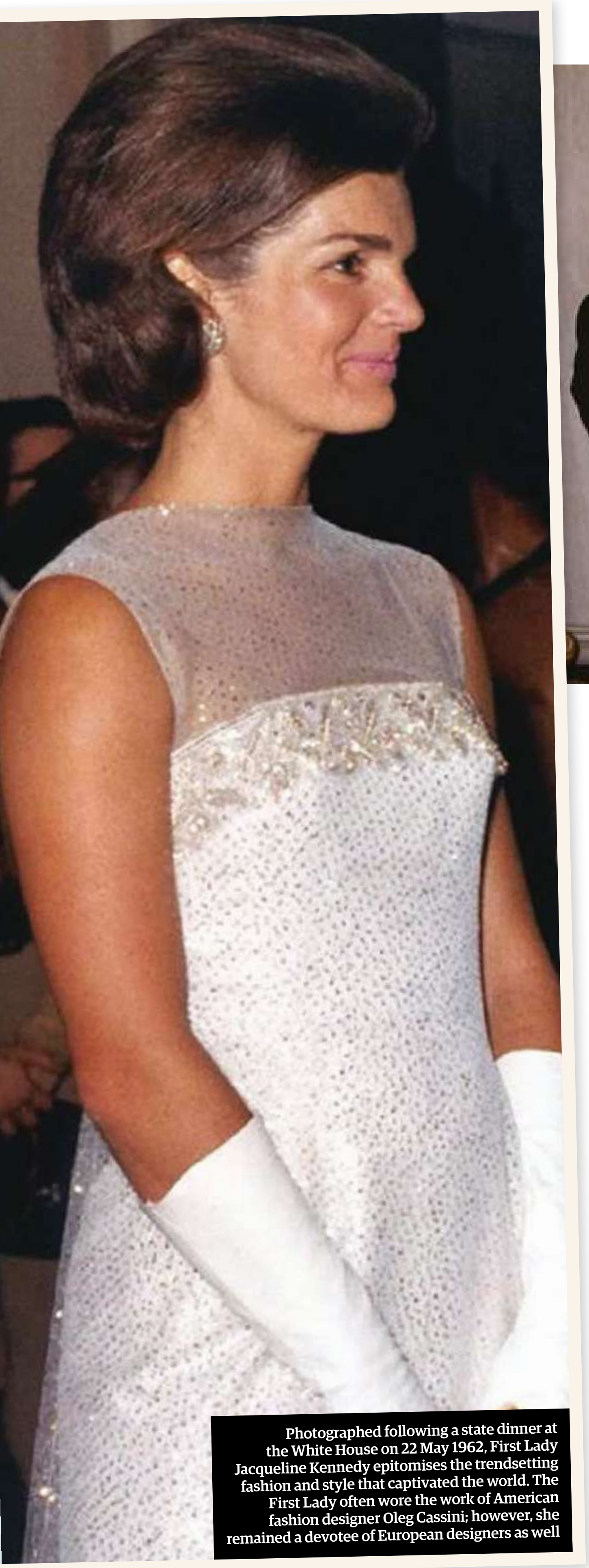
"Jacqueline brought charm to the role of First Lady"

opportunities to cultivate her interests in historic preservation, foreign languages and the arts, elevating her role to one of profound influence as an ambassador of goodwill, fashion trendsetter and international celebrity. She loved Europe and particularly France; however, she was keenly aware that the First Lady should dress primarily in the styles of an American designer, often choosing Oleg Cassini to produce the iconic look that became the fashion bellwether of the 1960s. Still, she also wore creations by Chanel and other European giants of the fashion industry.

Among Jacqueline's earliest initiatives as First Lady was the renovation of the White House, including the restoration of historic furnishings and rejuvenation of rooms. Through the years, many items had been removed from the White House, either as First Families had come and gone or as donations were made to museums. She sought the return of as many early and original pieces as possible. She wanted the residence to be a home for young Caroline and John, and converted the third floor sun porch into a kindergarten that could accommodate 15 children. Recognising the importance of diversity and social inclusion, she welcomed black children to the school.

The renovation effort involved the services of numerous experts and preservationists, and Mrs Kennedy established the position of White House curator while bringing together the White House Fine Arts Committee to oversee the project. Funds were raised with the public sale of the book *The White House: An Historic Guide*, a fundraising idea that she had conceived. On 14 February 1962, an estimated 80 million viewers tuned to CBS television to watch *A Tour of the White House with Mrs John F Kennedy*. She moved with easy grace from room to room, discussing the $2 million endeavour with correspondent Charles Collingwood, and the programme, which earned special Emmy award recognition, was rebroadcast to more than 50 countries. The extraordinary opportunity to connect with so many Americans enhanced her popularity and prestige. A dedicated patron of the arts, the First Lady raised the profile of the creative community, hosting dinners at the White House along with performances by world-renowned artists. Poetry, the ballet, music ranging from baroque to jazz fusion, and other forms of expression found an advocate in the First Lady. Virtuoso violinist Isaac Stern wrote: "It would be difficult to tell you how refreshing, how heartening it is to find such serious attention and respect for the arts in the White House. To many of us it is one of the most exciting developments on the present American cultural scene."

A catalyst for arts-related discourse, Mrs Kennedy proposed the establishment of a National Cultural Center in Washington, DC. Following the couple's visit to Paris in the spring of 1961, the *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, came to the States on loan from the French Ministry of Culture and the famed Louvre museum. Her patronage of the arts



Photographed following a state dinner at the White House on 22 May 1962, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy epitomises the trendsetting fashion and style that captivated the world. The First Lady often wore the work of American fashion designer Oleg Cassini; however, she remained a devotee of European designers as well

Wearing a gown by designer Oleg Cassini, the First Lady joins the president in greeting French novelist André Malraux at the White House

contributed to the public perception of a First Family that epitomised all that was elegant, beautiful and inspiring.

Still, these were turbulent times, both public and private. Jacqueline was well aware of her husband's numerous extramarital affairs, and considered filing for divorce. It was rumoured that Joseph P Kennedy, her father-in-law, offered her $1 million to stay in the marriage. Aware that the public image of the Kennedy family and the prestige of the highest office in the land were critical, she remained silent, doubtlessly enduring moments of extreme personal anguish.

While her country was embroiled in the Cold War, the Vietnam experience was emerging, the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis made headlines, and the civil rights movement was finding its voice, the First Lady chose her words carefully. However, she did offer private perspective on world events. After the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Kennedy presented her with a silver calendar identical to those he gave to his closest official advisors. Following the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion, she spoke in Miami to survivors of the abortive attempt to overthrow the Communist regime of dictator Fidel Castro.

As First Lady, Jacqueline travelled more than any of her predecessors. Aside from her love of such experiences, the trips were perhaps some solace, a coping mechanism in the midst of her husband's infidelity. She spoke French, Spanish and Italian, and her ability to address gatherings in their native languages endeared her to the common people of many lands. She travelled with the president, in the company of family members and friends, and on her own. Her glamour and appeal were such that President Kennedy once stepped to the dais, grinned broadly, and pronounced: "I do not think it altogether inappropriate to introduce myself to this audience. I am the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris, and I have enjoyed it."

In three years, Mrs Kennedy travelled to more than 15 countries, forging friendships with heads of state and senior diplomats, including President Charles de Gaulle of France and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan of Great Britain, and projecting an indelible image of goodwill and elegance abroad. She travelled to South America to promote the mission of the newly established Peace Corps. During a two-week visit to India and Pakistan in March 1962, she was accompanied by her sister, Lee. The two were escorted by 23 agents of the Secret Service and other security agencies, and they brought 62 pieces of luggage with them.

Hand in hand with moments of supreme satisfaction, tremendous joy and remarkable achievement came heart-wrenching tragedy. In early 1963, as President Kennedy contemplated running for a second term in office, Jacqueline learned that she was pregnant once again. On 7 August, a boy, Patrick, was born prematurely and died two days later at Children's Hospital in Boston.

While the parents still grieved the loss of their child, they boarded a plane from the capital city to Dallas, Texas, in late November. Amid a tumultuous welcome, the presidential motorcade proceeded down a city street. A sniper's rifle shots rang out, and John F Kennedy slumped forward with a fatal head wound.

In the aftermath of the national tragedy, as condolences poured in from around the world, and the nation was transfixed with the televised state funeral of her slain husband, Jacqueline Kennedy exhibited poise, resolution and amazing grace that brought family, friends and a grieving country through one of the darkest times in their history.

After leaving the White House, she remained a public figure despite efforts to avoid the limelight. She purchased a luxury apartment for her family on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and continued to pursue her interest in historic preservation, with a successful effort to renovate and preserve Grand Central Station in New York.

Paparazzi clicked photos whenever she appeared in public. Her 1968 marriage to Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis brought media attention. Tabloids referred to her as 'Jackie O', and the much-publicised union ended with the death of her 69-year-old second husband in 1975.

In her later years, she maintained a close relationship with financial advisor Maurice Tempelsman, and pursued a successful career in publishing with Viking Press and Doubleday. In 1993, she was diagnosed with lymphoma, and she died at her home at the age of 64 on 19 May 1994.

Her son announced the news of her passing with the comment that she had been "surrounded by her friends and her family and her books, and the people and the things that she loved."

The legacy of Jacqueline Kennedy remains vibrant, evidenced by a lifetime of glamour, excitement and sorrow - a modern fairy tale tinged with tragedy.

Indulging her lifelong passion for horses, Jacqueline Kennedy takes her children, John Jr and Caroline, for a ride in the autumn of 1962

EDITING AND PUBLISHING

A CAREER IN THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY BROUGHT JACQUELINE KENNEDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPRESSION

Following the death of Aristotle Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy accepted a position with Viking Press as a consulting editor. She was a woman of substantial financial means, leaving at her death an estate in excess of $43 million. Altogether, she spent 20 years in publishing, and it became the personal vocation that defined her as a self-sufficient individual.

According to *Vanity Fair* magazine, she once told an interviewer why she worked. "What has been sad for many women of my generation is that they weren't supposed to work if they had families," she explained. "There they were, with the highest education, and what were they to do when the children were grown – watch the raindrops coming down the window pane? Leave their fine minds unexercised?"

She held the Viking position for two years, resigning amid controversy surrounding false assertions of undue influence in the publication of a fictional novel based on a presidency of Ted Kennedy, her former brother-in-law. She was later hired by Doubleday and edited such works as *The Cartoon History of the Universe* by Larry Gonick, *Cairo Trilogy* by Naghib Mahfuz, and biographies of singer Carly Simon and fashion columnist and editor Diana Vreeland. At times, she wrote the forewords of books she had edited.

© AF archive / Alamy Stock Photo / Getty images

This image of Jacqueline Kennedy during a trip to Paris in the 1960s captures the ever-present aura of glamour and style that characterised her life

© Getty Images

SCANDALS

Revealing the secrets and conspiracy theories

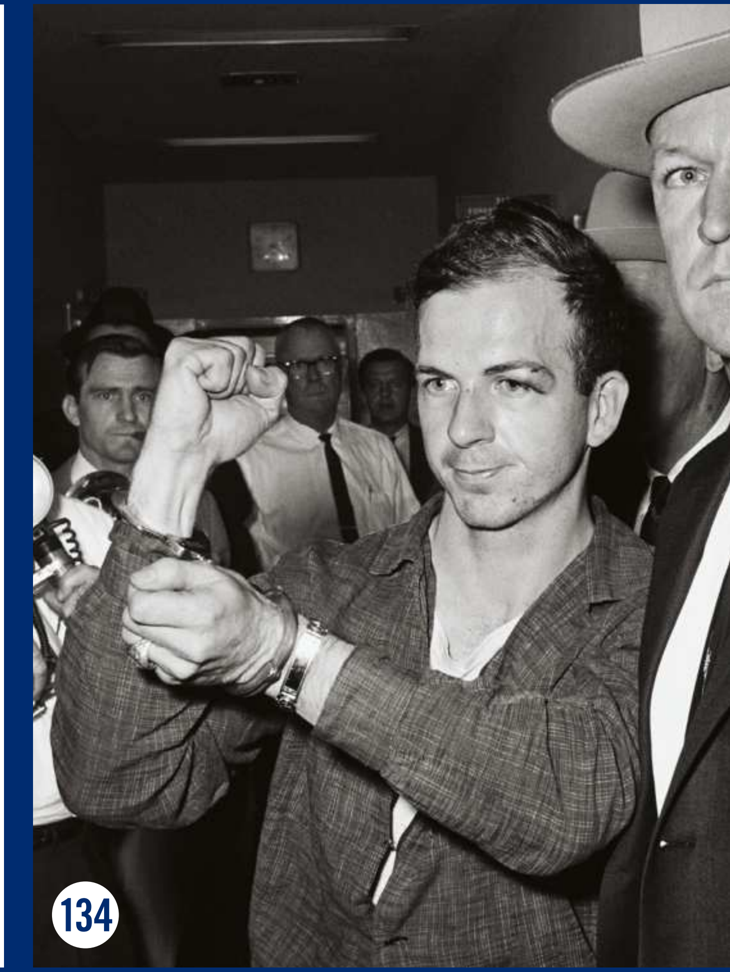
114 SECRETS AND SCANDALS
THE KENNEDYS GAINED THE STATUS THEY CRAVED – AND THE PUBLIC EXPOSURE TO GO WITH IT

120 AFFAIRS OF STATE
JFK NEVER ALLOWED POTENTIAL SCANDAL OR REPUTATIONAL RISK TO DISSUADE HIM FROM HIS INSATIABLE SEXUAL APPETITE

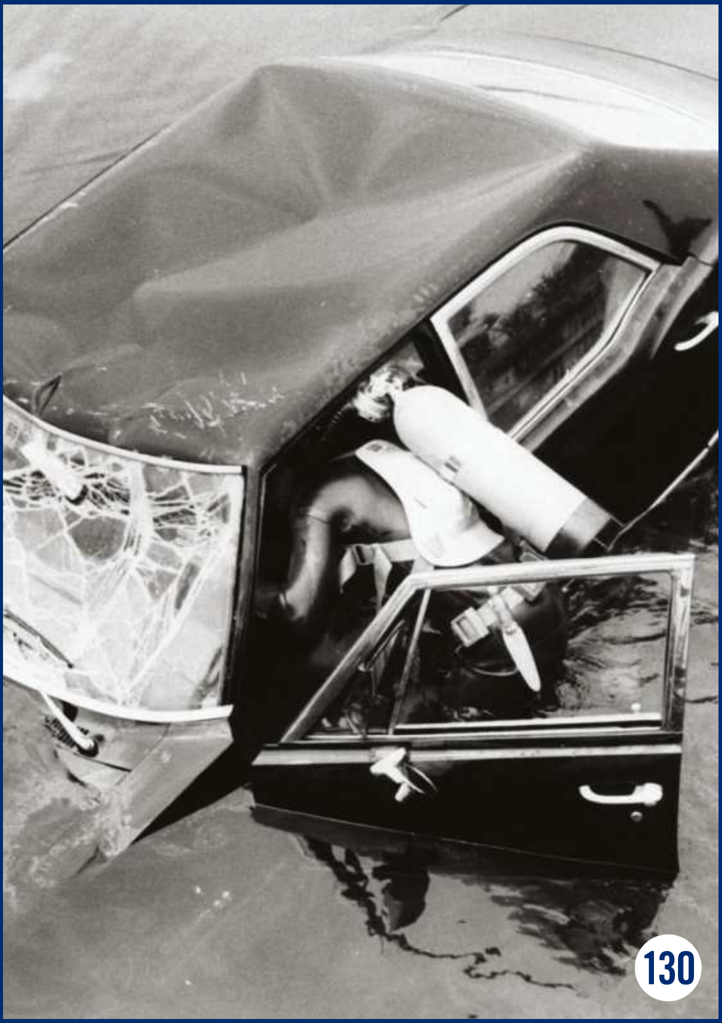
124 MARILYN MONROE AND THE KENNEDYS
RUMOUR AND SPECULATION SHROUD THE RELATIONSHIP OF JOHN AND ROBERT KENNEDY WITH MARILYN MONROE AND HER DEATH

130 THE CHAPPAQUIDDICK INCIDENT
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON THE SHORES OF CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND ON A PITCH-BLACK SUMMER NIGHT?

134 WHO REALLY KILLED JFK?
WHY THE MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE SURROUNDING THE JFK ASSASSINATION SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING



124



130

120

SECRETS AND SCANDALS

AT THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY, THE KENNEDYS GAINED THE STATUS THEY CRAVED – AND THE PUBLIC EXPOSURE TO GO WITH IT

The Kennedys have attracted as much attention for the scandals in their personal lives over the decades as they have for their political activities. Whether it concerns indecent affairs, tragic accidents or even criminal trials, the Kennedys have seen it all - while trying to maintain their reputation as a respectable family at the same time.

It seems that scandal was destined to dog the Kennedy family right from the beginning, starting with Joseph Kennedy Sr. Ironically Joseph, the family patriarch, was greatly concerned with his family, maintaining a wholesome, Catholic image. Yet behind the scenes, Joseph indulged in a series of extramarital affairs that could have destroyed his reputation at any moment.

His lovers ranged from film actresses, such as Marlene Dietrich and Gloria Swanson, with whom he had affairs during the 1920s, to his secretary, Janet Fontaine, who was almost four decades younger than him. His wife, Rose, knew all about his affairs, and chose to turn a blind eye to them. She was the strict matriarch of the family, who believed that maintaining a family image was of the upmost importance. The couple respected one another, but clearly their private lives were very different from the public one they portrayed.

Despite the fact that Joe courted scandal with his infidelities, it appears that the actions of his favourite daughter, Kathleen Kennedy, was something that the family could not ignore. When Kathleen, their second-eldest daughter, decided to marry William Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington, a rift emerged between her and her family. Cavendish, the heir apparent to his father, the 10th Duke of Devonshire, was also a Protestant, and Rose objected to her daughter marrying outside the Catholic faith.

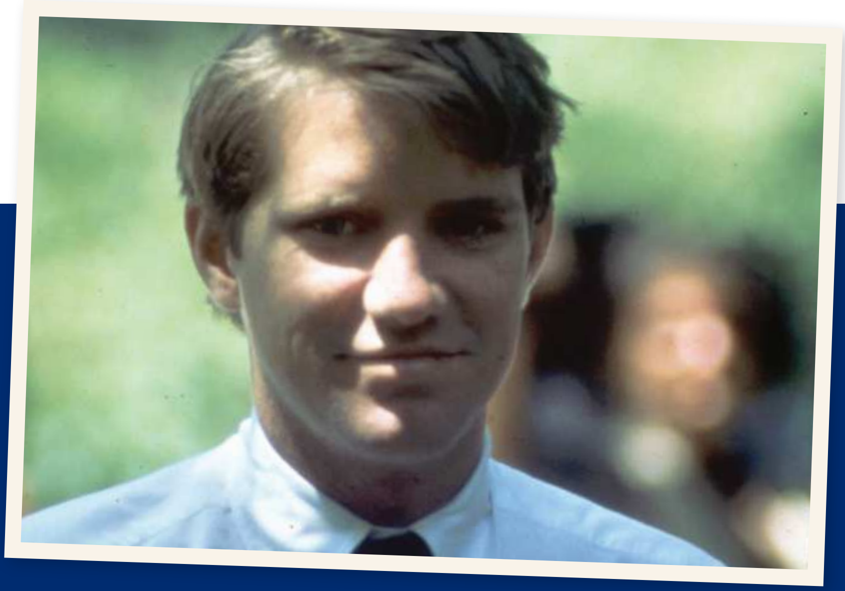
Kathleen persisted, and the young couple married in 1944, only for Cavendish to be killed while fighting the Germans in Belgium just four months later. Remaining in England, Kathleen eventually fell in love with the 8th Earl Fitzwilliam, another Protestant and a married man. Her relationship ostracised her from the rest of the Kennedy family, but Kathleen still hoped for her father's approval to marry Fitzwilliam.

In 1948, she boarded a plane with her lover to Paris, where they planned to meet her father and gain his permission. Tragically, the plane never made it to its destination, as it crashed en route.

Rose tolerated her husband's numerous extramarital affairs while supporting his ambitions for their children

Kathleen Kennedy with her brother, Joseph Kennedy, arriving for her wedding to William Cavendish on 6 May 1944

Kathleen, who was only 28 years old, was killed. But her sudden death did not alleviate her mother's resentment and fear that a relationship with a married man would tarnish the Kennedy reputation. Joseph Sr was the only Kennedy to attend Kathleen's funeral, and she was rarely discussed after, her memory sidelined by her own family.



ADDICTION AND THE KENNEDYS

THE KENNEDYS, FROM THE FIRST TO THE CURRENT GENERATION, HAVE STRUGGLED WITH SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCY

Rose Kennedy is frequently portrayed as the staunch matriarch of the family, which she undoubtedly was. However, she did not tolerate her husband's philandering as well as it appeared that she did, and in reality, Rose relied heavily on sedatives to help her stomach the infidelity.

Her son, JFK, suffered from a number of health problems, such as Addison's disease, which saw him become reliant on prescription drugs to get him through the day. He also hired Max Jacobson, nicknamed 'Dr Feelgood', to administer the latter's concoction of amphetamines and other medications, which Jacobson also gave to Jackie.

Addiction among the Kennedys did not end there, as Robert's fourth child, David, died of a drug overdose in his hotel room in 1984, after struggling with drug addiction for years. Sadly, he had completed a month-long stint in a rehabilitation clinic just a few weeks before his early death.

In recent years, drugs and alcohol have also proved a problem for Patrick J Kennedy, David's cousin and Ted's youngest son. Having abused substances since he was a student, Patrick was forced to enter a rehab clinic after crashing his car into a barricade on Capitol Hill in 2006, while under the influence of prescription drugs.

> "Unlike her mother-in-law, Jackie did not sit idly by while her husband had his fun on the side"

The treatment of Kathleen as a result of her relationships is hypocritical considering the activities of her famous brother, President John F Kennedy. He had a number of affairs outside of his marriage to Jackie Bouvier, from White House interns to Hollywood actresses. He even had a tryst with his father's former lover, Marlene Dietrich, who was two decades his senior - it seemed that a taste for infidelity was not the only thing that Joseph Sr had passed on to his son.

With the risk of scandal ever present thanks to her son's philandering, Rose had tried to teach her daughter-in-law to tolerate JFK's affairs for the sake of the Kennedy family. But unlike her mother-in-law, Jackie did not sit idly by while her husband had his fun on the side. Instead, she had affairs of her own, including with famous actors, such as Warren Beatty, Marlon Brando and Paul Newman. In fact, after her husband's assassination, it was widely speculated that Jackie even had an affair with her charismatic brother-in-law, Robert Kennedy. Clearly, if the men in the Kennedy family could take scandalous risks, then so could she.

Out of all her husband's salacious relationships, it is the alleged affair between JFK and actress Marilyn Monroe that continues to draw attention to this day. It will forever be remembered thanks to Monroe serenading the president with a sultry and iconic performance of *Happy Birthday* during a fundraiser at Madison Square Garden in May 1962. Even though it continues to fascinate us, any affair between the president and Monroe would have been brief, and it was rumoured that she also had a relationship with JFK's brother, Robert.

Sadly, just three months after the *Happy Birthday* performance, Monroe passed away from a drugs overdose in her Los Angeles home. Since her untimely demise, there have been rumours regarding the circumstances surrounding her early death. It is well-known that Monroe was struggling both physically and mentally in the months leading up to her death, and there was speculation that the Kennedys may have had her killed in case she decided to speak out about her affairs. This is just one of the many suggested theories that have emerged, but whatever the truth, it's a scandal that captivates audiences more than five decades after Monroe's death.

Interestingly, Marilyn Monroe was not the only one of JFK's alleged mistresses to be subject to

SUICIDE OF MARY RICHARDSON KENNEDY

THE LATEST TRAGEDY TO HAVE ENGULFED THE KENNEDY FAMILY IN RECENT YEARS

Mary Richardson Kennedy was the second wife of Robert Kennedy Jr, a son of Robert Kennedy and nephew of JFK and Ted. Robert Jr and Mary married in 1994, and the couple had four children together before Robert Jr filed for divorce in 2010. He had reportedly been unfaithful with Anne Colley in the wake of her own split from her husband, Bruce, after his affair with Robert's sister, Kerry.

Just days after their divorce had been announced, Mary was caught drink driving, having battled an alcohol and drug addiction for years. Heartbroken because of the split, it was claimed that Mary had been left destitute by bitter divorce, which also saw her lose temporary custody of her children. Apparently despondent in the months that followed, Mary committed suicide in May 2012.

Scandal surrounds her suicide, particularly because reports from the time revealed that Robert Jr had allegedly rebuffed his estranged wife after she reached out to him for help, just a day before her death. Mary was known to suffer from depression for much of her life, and it had supposedly worsened in the last two years of her life. Her family boycotted her funeral in anger, after unsuccessfully suing to gain control of her body and funeral.

Reporters question Ted Kennedy and his wife, Joan Kennedy, as they return from the funeral of Mary Jo Kopechne

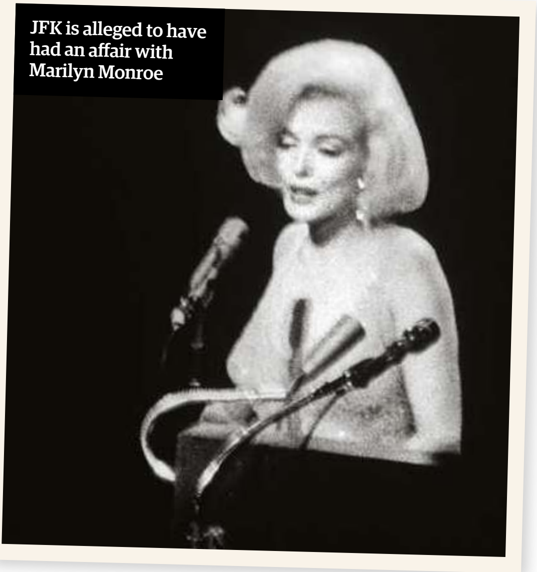
conspiracy theories. Mary Pinchot Meyer was the sister-in-law of *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee and the ex-wife of Cord Meyer, a high-level CIA operative. After her divorce in 1958, Mary began an affair with her long-time friend, JFK. In October 1964, less than a year after the president's assassination, Mary was shot dead in Georgetown while she was out walking.

To this day, her murder remains unsolved and shrouded in mystery. Many theories suggest that she was killed for her influence and association with the president, although he had been murdered the previous year. What we can be certain of is that – coupled with the death of Marilyn – Mary's murder sparked a new wave of conspiracy theories centred around the Kennedy family.

Of course, the deaths of Marilyn and Mary were not the only ones to become immersed in such speculation. The assassinations of JFK in November 1963 and his brother, Robert, in June 1968 continue to provoke intrigue to this day. In both cases the culprits were apprehended, with Lee Harvey Oswald arrested for JFK's murder, and Sirhan Sirhan for Robert's. However, with Oswald murdered just two days after his arrest for the murder of JFK, and claims that Sirhan Sirhan was not the only gunman involved in Robert's death, a number of alternative theories have been suggested. It is more than likely that the truth will never be fully known, but what is clear is that the controversy surrounding the investigations will always follow the Kennedys.

If the Kennedys had been hoping for a respite after the tragic loss of both John and Robert, then they were sorely disappointed. The Chappaquiddick incident of July 1969 is arguably one of the biggest scandals to have ever hit the family. Involving Ted – another of the Kennedy brothers – he drove his car off a bridge on Chappaquiddick island, where he had hosted a party. Although he managed to free himself from the wreckage, his passenger, 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne, remained trapped inside and she eventually drowned to death. Ted later testified that he made several attempts to rescue her, which ultimately failed. He found himself under increasing scrutiny after it emerged that instead of immediately informing the authorities, Ted had told no one for ten hours, choosing instead to discuss the matter with his lawyers. To make matters worse – at least, for the reputation of the Kennedys – it came out that the party had

Jackie had affairs of her own, and reportedly had one with her brother-in-law, Robert



JFK is alleged to have had an affair with Marilyn Monroe

“A new wave of conspiracy theories centred around the Kennedy family”

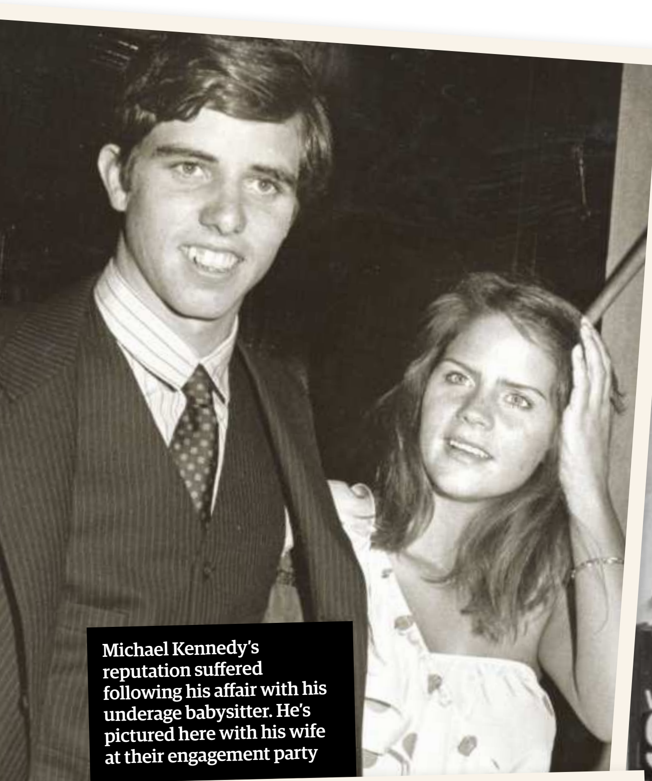
consisted of six married men, including Ted, and six unmarried women.

Although Mary Jo lost her life, Ted was only charged with leaving the scene of an accident after causing personal injury and not making himself known – he received a two-month suspended sentence. His plans to run for the presidency in 1972 and 1976 were scuppered by the incident, but Ted continued his political career in the Senate until his death in 2009. The outcome of the Chappaquiddick incident contributed to the belief that the Kennedy family lived outside of the law – and the stream of successive scandals has done nothing to quiet this.

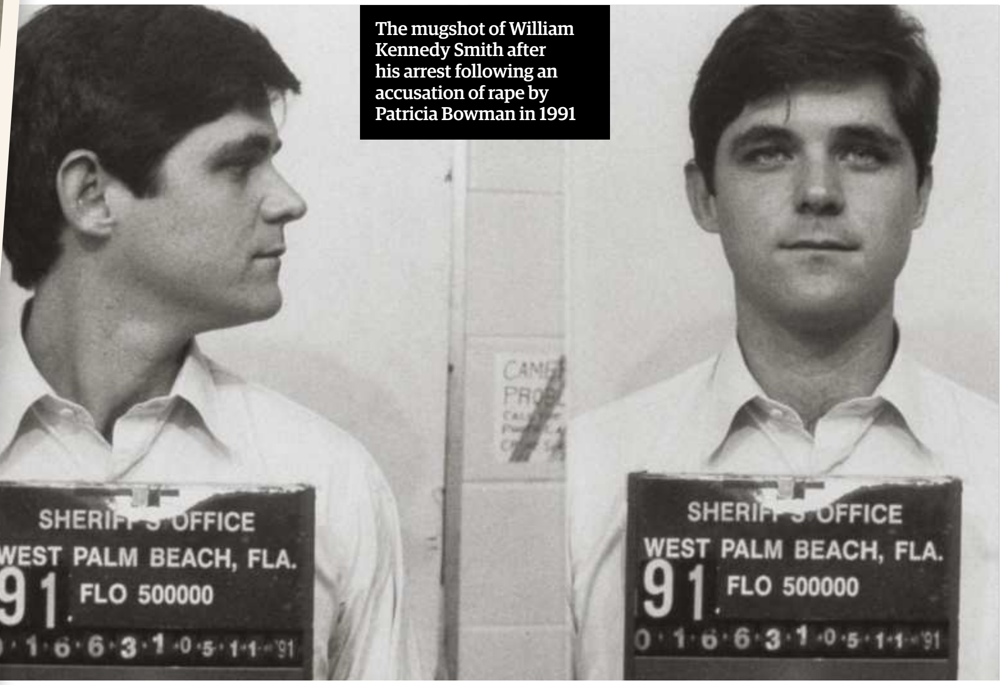
As it turned out, Ted’s was not the only car accident to smear the Kennedys. Around four years later, in 1973, Robert’s 21-year-old son, Joseph P Kennedy II, managed to overturn his Jeep while taking a shortcut down a Nantucket country lane. One of the passengers in the car, his brother David, was left with one of his vertebrae fractured. Meanwhile the other passenger, David’s girlfriend, Pamela Kelley, was left permanently paralysed. Joseph was charged with reckless driving and fined $100, which to many seemed like just a slap on the wrist. He reportedly settled with Kelley for $1million and paid for her medical treatment, as well as any subsequent treatment that she needed.

Scandals on the Kennedy front remained relatively quiet until 1991, with the highly publicised trial of William Kennedy Smith. The son of Joseph and Rose’s youngest daughter, Jean Kennedy Smith, William had been accused of rape by Patricia Bowman, a 29-year-old woman he had met in a bar in Palm Beach, Florida. He had visited the bar alongside his uncle, Senator Ted Kennedy, and his cousin, Patrick, where they met Bowman and another woman.

Invited back to the Kennedy home, William and Bowman took a walk on the beach. It was during this walk that Bowman claimed that William tackled and raped her, something he strenuously denied, testifying that they had consensual sex. The prosecution had secured three women, all of whom stated that William had sexually assaulted them during the 1980s, but the presiding judge barred them from giving evidence. William was acquitted of all charges in a trial that caused a national sensation. However, despite gaining his freedom, William’s reputation was still damaged as tabloids started their own



Michael Kennedy's reputation suffered following his affair with his underage babysitter. He's pictured here with his wife at their engagement party



The mugshot of William Kennedy Smith after his arrest following an accusation of rape by Patricia Bowman in 1991

Joseph P Kennedy II with his wife, Anne Elizabeth Kelly

investigations into his relationships with women. In 2004, he was hit with a lawsuit by a former employee who claimed he had sexually assaulted her in 1999. It was eventually dismissed, but the accusations against William continue to be a dark cloud over him.

The same year of William's trial, Joseph P Kennedy II proved that he was still courting controversy after his car accident almost two decades earlier, as his 12-year marriage to Sheila Rauch, with whom he had twin sons, ended in divorce. Two years later, Joseph put in a request with the Boston Archdiocese to have the marriage written off as an annulment. He wanted to marry his former secretary, Anne Elizabeth 'Beth' Kelley, in a traditional Catholic wedding – which, of course, was forbidden as he was a divorcee with a living ex-wife.

The annulment was granted with initial approval, and when she discovered what had happened, Sheila fought the Archdiocese against the decision. In 1998 she went one step further and published her memoir, *Shattered Faith: A Woman's Struggle*, which painted Joseph as a tempestuous man who tried to bully her into accepting annulment. The revelations, alongside other ongoing personal issues in the Kennedy family, forced Joseph to withdraw from the race for Massachusetts governor that year, ending his political career. After a decade, Sheila finally succeeded in getting the annulment reversed.

5 WIDELY UNKNOWN SECRETS

DISCOVER SOME OF THE KENNEDY SECRETS THAT HAVE APPEARED LESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bribing the bride

In the midst of her husband's presidential campaign, Jackie Kennedy realised that she could no longer stay in her marriage and wanted a divorce. Joseph Sr, concerned what a divorce would do to his son's reputation, offered Jackie $1million to stay with JFK and become First Lady.

Crossing the line

Joseph Sr had a reputation as a notorious philanderer but as it turns out, he even behaved inappropriately towards his daughters' friends. He supposedly made jokes of a sexual nature around them when his daughters were not present, and allegedly succeeded in sleeping with some of them.

Controversial cure

Jackie struggled to deal with her husband's constant infidelities. After he returned from seeing one of his mistresses, Jackie started a fight that spread out onto the street. JFK had her committed to the Valley Head Clinic in Massachusetts, where she had to endure three sessions of electroshock therapy.

Dirty money

It is often reported that Joseph Kennedy Sr gained a large proportion of his wealth through the Wall Street crash of 1929 and the subsequent Great Depression. However, it is rumoured that he was tied to organised crime and involved in bootlegging during the Prohibition era.

Sticking together

In recent years, allegations have emerged that Jack Jr, son of JFK, was blackmailed into supporting his cousin, William, during the latter's trial for rape in 1991. He supposedly did so because members of his family could release damaging information, which remains unknown today.

© Getty images

William Kennedy Smith (right) arrives at court for Smith's rape trial. With Smith are his mother, Jean; sister, Kym; cousins, Michael Kennedy and Robert Kennedy Jr; and Mrs Robert Kennedy Jr

“When the illicit relationship began she was just 14”

One of the most unsettling scandals to hit the Kennedy family was the accusations against Joseph's brother, Michael Kennedy, the sixth child of Robert and his wife Ethel, and contributed to his withdrawal from politics. Michael was a popular Kennedy and considered politically able, supporting his uncle Ted's Senate campaign in 1994. A family man, Michael worked for nonprofit organisations, which helped the elderly and the poor, such as the Citizens Energy Corporation, as well as co-founding the Stop Handgun Violence group.

But Michael's image as a stable father and husband was shattered in 1997 when allegations surfaced that he had been conducting an affair with his children's babysitter. Yet the most shocking detail was that when the illicit relationship first began, the babysitter was just 14 years old. Michael protested that they had not slept together until she turned 16, passing three polygraph tests on the matter. Regardless, Michael was investigated for statutory rape, which did not progress further. Withdrawing from the public eye and separated from his wife, Michael was killed in a skiing accident at the end of the year – concluding one of the darkest scandals to hit the Kennedys.

In contrast to the previous decades, the 21st century has been rather quiet on the controversial front for the Kennedys, although not completely silent. The most notable scandal of recent years has centred around Joseph and Michael's sister, Kerry Kennedy. In 2003, she found herself at the top of tabloid headlines and gossip, as her long-term affair with another man, Bruce Colley, was rumbled. It led to the breakdown of her marriage to Andrew Cuomo, a marriage that had been seen by many to be a political dream, between the daughter of Robert Kennedy and the son of former New York governor Mario Cuomo.

Compared to other Kennedy scandals, Kerry's affair is not the most sensationalist. However, as previous generations have passed away, the escapades of their lives have become exposed in a world where it has become difficult to cover up controversy – and our obsession to discover the truth about the Kennedys continues to grow.

Kerry's marriage to Andrew Cuomo ended after she had an affair with another man

AFFAIRS OF STATE

JOHN F KENNEDY PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED HIS INSATIABLE SEXUAL APPETITE, BUT NEVER ALLOWED POTENTIAL SCANDAL OR REPUTATIONAL RISK TO DISSUADE HIM

Throughout adolescent and adult life, John F Kennedy was as driven in the pursuit of sexual liaisons with women as success in his political career and the quest for the highest office in the US government.

"If I don't have sex every day, I get a headache," he once remarked to British prime minister Harold Macmillan. Indeed, Kennedy has been acknowledged as a philanderer; a compulsive Lothario whose penchant for misbehaviour knew relatively few, if any, boundaries. In the years since his death in 1963, history has revealed intimate details of his sexual pursuits that have fascinated, titillated and shocked the public.

Perhaps John F Kennedy was merely following in his father's footsteps. Joseph P Kennedy had affairs during his lifetime, and other Kennedy men have possessed a wandering eye. Long-suffering Jacqueline Kennedy was never naïve enough to be taken for an unwitting spouse. Once during an interview, as they passed the desk of a White House staffer, she told a reporter for a French magazine, in the language of the listener: "This is the girl that is sleeping with my husband."

Resigned to her husband's wanderings, Jackie had come from a broken home. Her father, John 'Black Jack' Bouvier, was a notorious womaniser. She may have simply acquiesced, rationalising that such behaviour was normal, even though she was rumoured to have threatened divorce, prompting her father-in-law to offer a $1 million payment if she agreed to stay in the marriage.

John F Kennedy's rakish behaviour began at an early age. During his reckless youth, he lustily pursued women while in secondary school at prestigious Choate and subsequently Harvard University. While he devoted acumen and energy to political manoeuvring and ambition, played the doting father and devoted husband before the media, and employed a cadre of aides and confidantes to procure willing partners and more or less conceal his dalliances from the public, the press gave him pass, and the 35th president of the United States was undeterred in his extramarital fulfilment of a more-than-healthy lust for the ladies. Among his alleged conquests were Hollywood stars Marilyn Monroe and Marlene Dietrich, a college co-ed, airline stewardesses, White House staff members, casual acquaintances, possible spies, prostitutes and even Pamela Turnure, the First Lady's press secretary. Many of these liaisons were allegedly facilitated by longtime Kennedy confidante and assistant appointments secretary Dave Powers.

> "His extramarital fulfilment of a more-than-healthy lust for the ladies"

Although the supposed affair with Marilyn Monroe has garnered the greatest attention, perhaps the most dangerous and potentially career-ending liaisons for John F Kennedy involved a Danish national, Inga Arvad, who was already under surveillance by the FBI when she met Kennedy. In the autumn of 1941, Arvad was suspected of being an agent of Nazi Germany, using 24-year-old Kennedy, a US Navy officer assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC, as an information source. FBI suspicions led to following the couple, wiretaps, and planting listening devices in living quarters. Kennedy avoided dismissal from the Navy because of his father's influence and former position as US ambassador to Great Britain and

The Washington Post
DETROIT
WASHINGTON
BALL
STRIKE
AT BAT
INN
THE PRESCRIPTION

Confidante Dave Powers stands between President Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Johnson, as the president throws the first pitch of the 1962 major league baseball season

Singer-actor Frank Sinatra poses jauntily in this 1957 image. A close friend of President Kennedy, Sinatra introduced him to Judith Exner and Angie Dickinson

This sultry 1955 promotional image of actress Sophia Loren conveys her sex appeal. She is said to have turned down the future US president

was reassigned to a post in South Carolina. The affair fizzled. No proof of espionage ever surfaced.

In the early 1950s, congressman Kennedy is said to have met Blaze Starr, a famous performer on the stripper circuit, while visiting Crossroads, a burlesque club in Maryland. The encounter is said to have been brief, and a proposed 'visit' to the White House in 1962 was cancelled due to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Nevertheless, years later, Starr called her experience with Kennedy "very quick and very wild." A few years afterwards, President Kennedy was linked to a second supposed spy, East-German-born Ellen Rometsch, wife of a West German Air Force sergeant assigned to the Washington embassy. A story broke that Rometsch, also an alleged prostitute, was romantically linked to "some high White House figures," and she was deported - possibly by Attorney General Robert F Kennedy to cover up his brother's connection. No conclusive proof of a romantic relationship between the president and Rometsch was ever produced.

Another short-lived 1950s fling supposedly began on the French Riviera, a scant month before the future president was to marry Jacqueline Bouvier. Gunilla von Post, a Swedish socialite, is said to have been swept away by the charm of a man 15 years her senior and a passionate kiss in the moonlight. Two years later, it is alleged that the two met again and found themselves in a clandestine affair. In 1997, von Post's book, *Love, Jack*, detailing their association, was published. Actresses held a particular allure for John F Kennedy, some of his overtures consummated while others were rebuffed. He enjoyed a brief encounter with Gene Tierney, separated from her husband, designer Oleg Cassini. It was Kennedy who called it quits, explaining that his political aspirations prohibited him from marrying a non-Catholic actress.

In the late 1950s, Sophia Loren came to the United States to star in the film *Houseboat*. Then-senator Kennedy attended a reception at the Italian embassy, allegedly intent on seducing the voluptuous actress. It is reported he sent his proxy, associate George Smathers, to invite Loren to a late-night dinner at his Georgetown home, and Kennedy waited anxiously, only to leave disappointed as Smathers was stiff-armed three times. When Kennedy's sister, Pat, hosted a party during the 1960 Democratic Convention, Frank

Mafia boss Sam Giancana was a lover of Judith Exner, who reportedly connected the White House to organised crime, a scandalous endeavour that was hushed

Sinatra introduced him to actress Angie Dickinson. She attended a dinner hosted by Sinatra on the eve of Kennedy's nomination for president, reportedly flirting with him. Dickinson has never disclosed whether the relationship progressed further.

Sultry Marlene Dietrich has long been rumoured to have had an affair with the president's father; she remembered that the son was also zealous in his pursuit. The president supposedly made the most of his opportunity when Dietrich, aged 60, visited the White House in September 1963. Dietrich described a "clumsy pass" and then claims they had a 20-minute romp before performing on stage that same evening.

> "Monroe was not the only lover who met an early end"

For all the glitz and glamour surrounding John F Kennedy's sexual escapades, the mysterious death of Marilyn Monroe has clouded remembrances with speculation regarding conspiracy and murder. Monroe was not the only alleged lover who met an early end. Mary Pinchot Meyer had known Kennedy since their prep school days in 1938. Once married to a CIA agent, she was the sister-in-law of *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee, and a friend of Harvard researcher and LSD drug proponent Timothy Leary. Meyer and Kennedy engaged in an affair while Kennedy was in the White House. In October 1964, however, she was found dead of gunshot wounds, murdered while walking a Georgetown street near her home. Half a century later, no arrest has been made.

Two of John F Kennedy's most notorious affairs occurred while at the zenith of his political power, and ironically involved the sordid, shadowy world of organised crime and the loss of a young girl's innocence. Judith Campbell Exner claims to have met Kennedy at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas in 1960. Sinatra was performing there and made the introduction of his former lover. She went on to become the mistress of Mafia boss Sam Giancana. The affair with Kennedy began before the election of 1960 and continued during Kennedy's presidency. In 1977, Exner's memoir, *Judith Exner: My Story*, was released. In its pages, she asserted that the president had prostitutes brought to the White House for pool parties and skinny dipping, and later claimed that she aborted Kennedy's love child. Journalists have also speculated that she had served as a courier between Kennedy and the Mafia.

Judith Campbell Exner, author of a tell-all memoir with alleged revelations concerning her love affair with President John F Kennedy, wrote that the Kennedys played by their own set of rules, although he never intended to harm her in any way. However, she also admitted: "Jack was reckless, so reckless"

Former presidential lover Mimi Alford appears on the television programme The View to promote her memoir of an 18-month stint as Kennedy's mistress

In this June 1953 image, the Kennedys appear to be a content couple; however, Jacqueline was probably already well aware of her husband's extramarital affairs

Stripper Blaze Starr related that she almost succeeded in trysting with John F Kennedy at the White House but the Cuban Missile Crisis intervened

19-year-old Mimi Alford, a sophomore at Wheaton College, believed she had landed a dream job when she became an intern in the White House press office in 1962. Alford told NBC News that just a few days after she began her internship, she and two White House secretaries, Priscilla Ware and Jill Cowen, nicknamed Fiddle and Faddle, had gone for a midday swim in the pool. According to the report, the president had previously enjoyed the sexual favours of both Fiddle and Faddle, and joined the girls in the water. He later sent word that Alford was invited to the White House residential area that evening for a mixer for new staff members.

The president offered to take Alford on a tour of the quarters after Powers escorted her into the area. Just a few steps later, the president was alone in his wife's bedroom with the young intern. Mimi was captivated, and in moments she was no longer a virgin. Thus began a torrid 18-month affair, which also included updates on how Mimi was doing in her Wheaton studies, and even occasional fatherly advice. In 2011, Alford's book, *Once Upon a Secret: My Affair with President John F Kennedy and Its Aftermath*, detailed her experiences as the chief executive's mistress, along with a salacious tale that during one skinny-dipping session, the president suggested she perform oral sex on Powers. She complied.

Some biographers, as well as various people who knew the president, have related that John F Kennedy could never adequately explain his unbridled enthusiasm for women. Nevertheless, he heeded its disquieting impulse to the brink of his undoing - risking everything for temporal pleasure.

LETTERS AND LEATHER

YEARS AFTER JOHN F KENNEDY'S AFFAIRS WITH VON POST, MEYER'S PERSONAL ITEMS GAINED WORLD ATTENTION

In 2015, Canon Carl Arvidsson, senior chaplain of The King's School, Canterbury, brought a leather jacket once owned by President John F Kennedy and passed to him by his father to a filming of the television series *Antiques Roadshow* for an appraisal.

He was astounded to learn that its estimated value exceeded £100,000.

Apparently, Arvidsson's father had been a close friend of the nephew of socialite Gunilla von Post, Kennedy's lover, in the mid-1950s, and when the affair ended she kept the jacket. Von Post later passed it to her nephew, and it was subsequently obtained by Arvidsson's father.

Other more intimate items from Kennedy's affairs have recently been sold under the auctioneer's hammer. Among them is a love letter written to Mary Pinchot Meyer in the autumn of 1963, just weeks before Kennedy's assassination. Penned in his own hand, the president implores: "Why don't you leave suburbia for once – come and see me – either here – or at the Cape next week or in Boston the 19th. I know it is unwise, irrational, and that you may hate it – on the other hand you may not – and I will love it.

"You say that it is good for me not to get what I want. After all of these years – you should give me a more loving answer than that. Why don't you just say yes."

The four-page letter, its White House stationery top clipped off but the watermark still visible, fetched $88,970 in the 2016 auction, well above the anticipated $30,000 minimum. It was never mailed.

© Everett Collection Inc / Alamy Stock Photo / Hulton Archive / Stringer / Getty

MARILYN MONROE AND THE KENNEDYS

RUMOUR AND SPECULATION SHROUD THE RELATIONSHIP OF JOHN AND ROBERT KENNEDY WITH MARILYN MONROE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HER DEATH

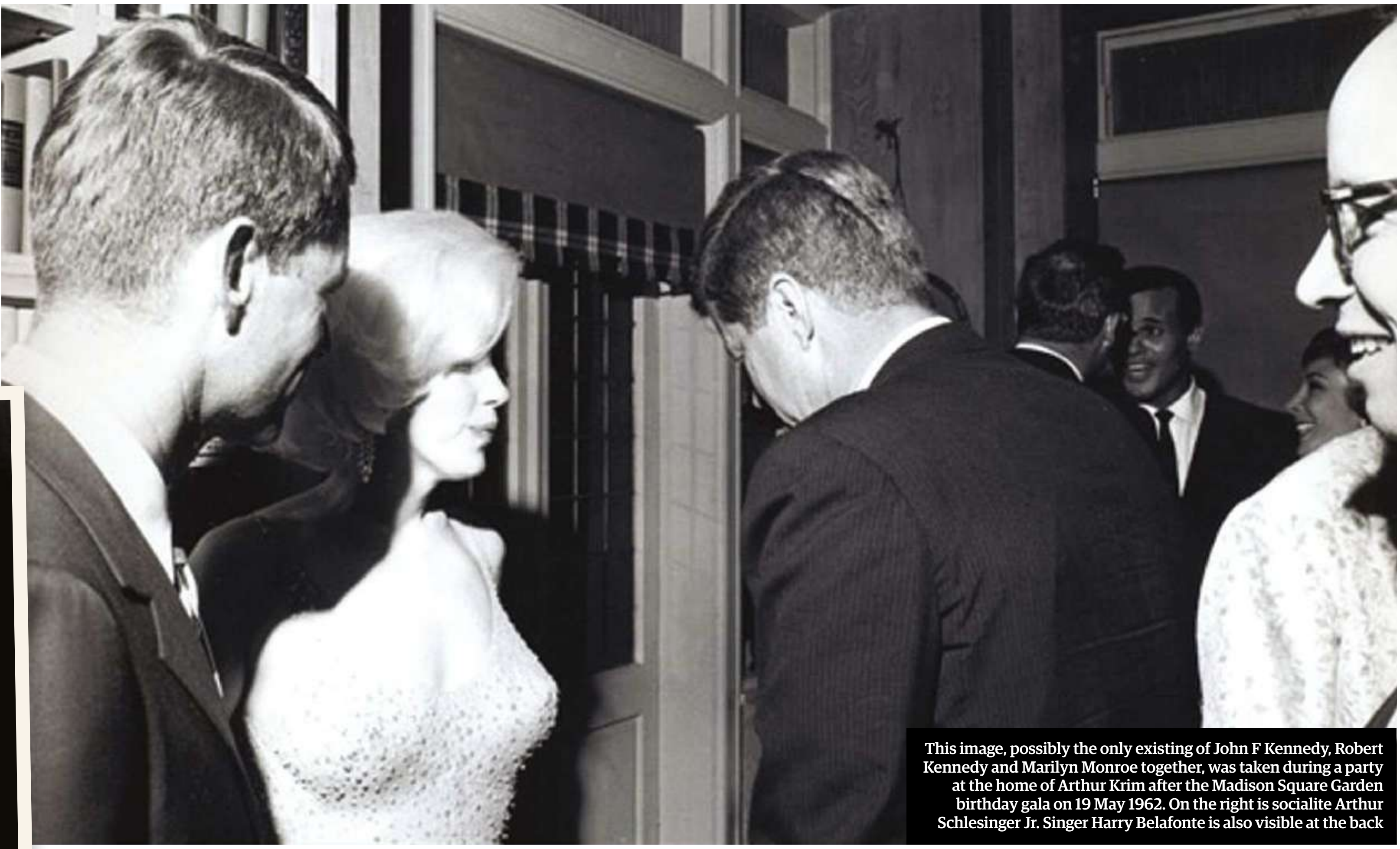
She was the most famous sex symbol of the 20th century. Her charm and beauty captivated audiences on the silver screen, and her glitzy lifestyle was the stuff of fairy tales. But the outward appearance of a glamorous movie star was deceiving.

Marilyn Monroe was a tortured soul. In the late summer of 1962, her personal life was in turmoil. Apparently despondent after three failed marriages, the most recent to playwright Arthur Miller ending 19 months earlier, 36-year-old Monroe died under mysterious circumstances at her home in the posh Los Angeles suburb of Brentwood. Immediately, speculation swirled. Was Marilyn's death the result of an accidental overdose, suicide or even murder? The names of president John F Kennedy and his younger brother, US attorney general Robert F Kennedy, surfaced among conspiracy theorists who were convinced that Marilyn had been engaged in a clandestine love affair with the president - and possibly the attorney general as well.

At first glance, such illicit liaisons seem unlikely. However, the president's penchant for women, and details of numerous affairs, have been revealed during the decades since his death, and during his lifetime he was known by those close to him to have taken unnecessary risks to fulfil his amorous pursuits. His loyal brother, it has been said, sometimes went to extreme lengths to protect the president's reputation, along with that of the Kennedy family. The media's disclosure of infidelity might have dealt a staggering blow to the presidency that seemed idyllic to the public and jeopardise the president's prospects for reelection in 1964.

Just how well the Kennedys and Marilyn Monroe knew one another is a matter of speculation. While some observers assert that the actress met then-senator John F Kennedy during the 'April in Paris Ball' at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City on 11 April 1957, it seems unlikely that the two exchanged greetings. Each was present with their spouse, and there is no hard evidence that an introduction occurred. Others offer that the connection was made by the

Even as she battled drug addiction and depression, Marilyn Monroe was stunningly beautiful, her troubles hidden from the American public as she moved in influential circles



This image, possibly the only existing of John F Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe together, was taken during a party at the home of Arthur Krim after the Madison Square Garden birthday gala on 19 May 1962. On the right is socialite Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Singer Harry Belafonte is also visible at the back

> “There may have been at least one opportunity for the president and the actress to act on impulse”

president’s brother-in-law, actor Peter Lawford, the husband of Patricia Kennedy Lawford, during a dinner party at Lawford’s home in Santa Monica, California, in 1961. Patricia Lawford and Monroe had become friends while the latter was filming the movie *Let’s Make Love*. Peter Lawford was a member of the popular, partying Rat Pack that included Frank Sinatra, who reportedly dated Monroe after her divorce from Miller.

While there is little evidence to suggest an ongoing love affair between either of the Kennedy brothers and Marilyn Monroe, researchers acknowledge that there may have been at least one opportunity for the president and the actress to act on impulse. On 24 March 1962, the president and Monroe attended a party in Palm Springs, California, at the home of actor Bing Crosby. Author Donald Spoto revealed 31 years later in his book *Marilyn Monroe: The Biography* that Monroe’s masseur and trusted friend, Ralph Roberts, confirmed that the two were together in a bedroom at the Crosby home.

Roberts said that he had received a telephone call that night from Monroe asking about techniques to relieve back pain. While they were talking, Roberts remembered hearing someone speaking in the background in a distinctly recognisable Boston accent. It was well known that the president suffered from spinal problems, made worse by an injury received during World War II. Kennedy may actually have talked directly to Roberts, but such an exchange between them is not confirmed.

“Marilyn told me that this night in March was the only time of her ‘affair’ with JFK,” Roberts concluded. “A great many people thought, after that weekend that there was more to it. But Marilyn gave me the impression that it was not a major event for either of them: it happened once, that weekend, and that was that.”

If rumours of a ‘torrid’ affair had simmered on the launch pad for months, they blasted into the stratosphere in May of 1962 during the president’s 45th birthday party at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The event doubled as a Democratic Party fundraiser, and Jacqueline declined to attend. Monroe, however, had been asked to perform at the party, and the invitation may have

The dress in which Monroe sang *Happy Birthday* to the president goes for auction been extended by the president himself, perhaps during their supposed tryst at Crosby's home.

Although Monroe had been suffering with a sinus infection, and her addiction to barbiturates had negatively impacted the schedule of her current film, *Something's Got to Give*, she kept her commitment. Thunderous applause greeted her as she took to the Garden stage wearing a white fur coat that she shed to reveal a tightly fitting sequinned dress with thin shoulder straps, accentuating her curvaceous figure. She smiled and then launched into a sultry rendition of *Happy Birthday*, the lustful lyrics eliciting cheers from the audience. She segued into *Thanks for the Memory* with lyrics specially written for the honouree.

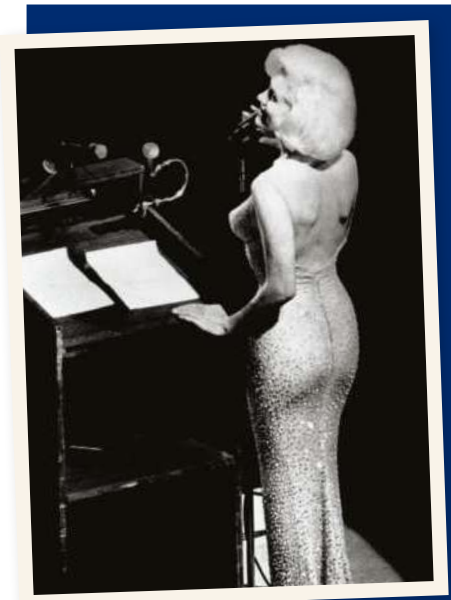
President Kennedy then took to the podium and grinned: "I can now retire from politics after having *Happy Birthday* sung to me in such a sweet, wholesome way."

The Madison Square Garden birthday evening was the last documented occasion during which President John F Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe were in close proximity to one another in public. While photographic images showing them together elsewhere have been produced, many experts discount these as forgeries, the two likenesses doctored to give the appearance that the subjects are with one another.

Perhaps the only photograph that does depict Monroe with both Kennedy brothers was taken the same night as the birthday party, at the Manhattan home of entertainment attorney and Democratic Party finance chairman Arthur Krim. Monroe stands between them, Robert Kennedy in profile to her right, and the president, his back almost completely turned, stands opposite.

Three months later, Monroe was dead. Speculation surrounding a supposed affair

In the years leading up to Monroe meeting the Kennedys she had emerged as a major sex symbol in Hollywood



THE TELLTALE ROLEX

A ROLEX WATCH GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT ALLUDES TO A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP

The inscription reads: "JACK… With love as always from… MARILYN… May 29th 1962. President John F Kennedy received two unusual gifts on the night of his birthday gala at Madison Square Garden on 19 May 1962, actually ten days before his birthday.

Marilyn Monroe, the quintessential sex symbol of the 20th century, sang *Happy Birthday* to him in unforgettable style and later is thought to have given presidential aide Ken O'Donnell a small box adorned with the image of two doves kissing. Inside was a Rolex President wristwatch with the tender etching on the back of its case. The watch was accompanied by a slip of paper on which was written a short poem titled *A Heartfelt Plea on Your Birthday*. President Kennedy is known to have appreciated fine watches, and some of those owned during his lifetime have become quite popular among collectors of memorabilia. One of his favourites was a Bulova given by a friend in 1941. Jacqueline once gave him a Cartier as an anniversary gift, and Grant Stockdale, a close friend and former state senator from Florida, presented him with an 18-carat gold Omega Ultra Thin that sold at auction in December 2005 for $350,000. The purchaser was Omega, and the historic timepiece is now on public display in the company's museum in Bienne, Switzerland.

However, when O'Donnell delivered the Rolex, the president reportedly said: "Get rid of it!" Does the watch have more to tell than the time of day? Along with the accompanying poem, it sold at auction a few years ago for $120,000.

Shown with his wife, Ethel, Robert Kennedy zealously defended his family's reputation

has persisted for decades, and some of those who have asserted specific knowledge of a clandestine liaison have since recanted their earlier statements. Having said that, some lingering suspicion still remains - if for no other reason than the public very much enjoys a good tale of intrigue and romance.

Monroe herself was said to have been lured into a pursuit of the president for just such reasons, rather than lust alone. Longtime US senator from Florida and friend of the president, George Smathers once told an interviewer that Marilyn's overtures were continually rebuffed. She telephoned Kennedy at the White House on several occasions, reported Smathers, but finally stopped contacting him when the president regularly refused to take her calls.

"He wanted to stop it," remembered Smathers, "because it got to a point where it was something embarrassing. She stopped bothering him because he quit talking to her."

> "The actress was convinced that she would displace the First Lady"

In his 2013 book *These Few Precious Days: The Final Year of Jack with Jackie*, author Christopher Andersen asserts that Jacqueline Kennedy was quite familiar with the innuendo surrounding her husband's supposed relationship with Monroe. Another close confidante alleges that the actress was convinced that she would displace the First Lady and marry the sitting president, while she actually telephoned Jacqueline and informed her directly of the affair.

President John F Kennedy (left) and his brother, Attorney General Robert F Kennedy, confer at the White House. Both have been romantically linked to Marilyn Monroe

The First Lady's supposed response is epic. "Marilyn, you'll wed Jack. That is incredible. Furthermore, you'll move into the White House and you'll accept the obligations of the First Woman, and I'll move out and you'll have every one of the issues."

While evidence that President Kennedy and Monroe had an ongoing affair is scant, riddled with hearsay and speculation, it is entirely possible that they engaged in at least one sexual liaison at Crosby's home in March 1962. However, at least one Secret Service agent went on the record saying that he had been with the president during the party at the Lawford home in 1961, and the Madison Square Garden birthday gala, and had never seen evidence of a romantic link.

Some evidence suggests that Monroe's relationship with the Kennedys did not stop with the president. Biographers and investigative reporters have suggested that Marilyn also carried on an illicit affair with Robert Kennedy. Witnesses on the night of the big birthday bash confirmed that Monroe aggressively pursued

STRASBERG OFFERS ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

MONROE CONFIDANTE SUSAN STRASBERG ASSERTED THAT MARILYN SAW LIMITATIONS TO HER RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Actress Susan Strasberg was a friend of Marilyn Monroe. Her father, Lee Strasberg, ran the Actors Studio and conducted workshops that attracted many stars. In 1955, Monroe moved to New York and began attending Strasberg's sessions. In time, she grew close to the Strasberg family. Susan's mother, Paula, became her drama coach. When she died, Monroe left a substantial portion of her estate to Lee, including film royalties, real estate and a number of personal effects for distribution "among my friends, colleagues and those to whom I am devoted."

In an unpublished memoir, Susan seems to contradict other assessments of the supposed affair between President Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe that assert it was the president who ended the relationship. Susan wrote: "It was OK to sleep with a charismatic President, and Marilyn loved the secrecy and drama of it, but Kennedy was not the kind of man she wanted to spend her life with, and she made that very clear."

Delivering the eulogy at Monroe's funeral, Lee remarked: "She had a luminous quality; a combination of wistfulness, radiance, and yearning that set her apart and made everyone wish to be a part of it – to share in the childish naivety which was at once so shy and yet so vibrant."

President Kennedy and his brother, the attorney general, discuss the proceedings during a congressional hearing. Perhaps they shared more than just family and political interests

the attorney general after the event, while Kennedy's wife, Ethel, the mother of his brood that would eventually reach 11 children, was also in attendance.

Louis Harris, a rather well-known Kennedy operative in the 1960 presidential campaign, opinion pollster and also author, reportedly recounted: “She literally pinned him against a wall, and she had him trapped. Ethel got so disgusted. When she got him home, she said: ‘That's the most disgusting thing I've ever seen’.”

Sometime in 1962, Jean Kennedy Smith, younger sister of the president and attorney general, wrote a letter to Monroe that includes an intriguing comment: “Understand that you and Bobby are the new item! We all think you should come with him when he comes back east!” Confirmation of an affair? After the letter was made public for the first time in 1994, Kennedy Smith responded to its content saying: “The suggestion that the letter implies an affair is utter nonsense. I am shocked anyone would believe such innuendo about a letter obviously written in jest.”

Such words on paper, coupled with a denial, make for a strange brew of potential collusion. The letter subsequently sold at auction for $28,000 in late 2016.

Theories concerning a possible affair between Monroe and Robert Kennedy have run the gamut from scholarly research to tabloid conjecture. One source described the president as having “passed” Monroe to his brother after tiring of his own relationship with her, while Roberts, her ubiquitous masseur, related that Monroe once remarked: “Everyone thinks I'm having an affair with Bobby. Well, I'm not. I like him, but not physically.”

> “A scandal would have placed the president's administration in jeopardy”

Regardless, a few facts are known. Monroe was addicted to barbiturates in the summer of 1962. By July, 20th Century Fox had fired her from *Something's Got to Give* for habitual tardiness and disruption of the production schedule. The film project was eventually abandoned. During the same month, she phoned the attorney general at the Justice Department half a dozen times, the last of these on 30 July, and lasting eight minutes. The nature of the calls is unknown.

Certainly, the Kennedys sought to protect their political and social standing. A salacious scandal would no doubt have placed the president's administration in jeopardy. Monroe's sometimes erratic behaviour compounded the risk to the Kennedy reputation.

At approximately 3am on 5 August 1962, Monroe's housekeeper, Eunice Murray, determined that Monroe had locked her bedroom door and did not respond to calls. Murray contacted Doctor Ralph Greenson, Monroe's analyst, who broke into the bedroom through a window, and Monroe was found dead. The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office ruled the death a probable suicide due to an overdose of barbiturates. Her funeral was held three days later, and she was interred at Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery.

MONROE'S DEATH LIKELY SUICIDE

FIVE CLUES THAT POINT TOWARDS MARILYN MONROE'S DEATH BEING SUICIDE RATHER THAN A COMPLEX KENNEDY MURDER PLOT

Robert Kennedy's whereabouts

It seems clumsy and amateurish that Robert Kennedy placed himself at the crime scene should a murder plot have been unfolding. The timeline is a stretch since travelling from northern California to Los Angeles would have required hours, and Kennedy was seen in northern California at times indicating his whereabouts.

Marilyn's addiction

The toxicology report released after the autopsy of Marilyn Monroe's body concluded the cause of death was acute barbiturate poisoning, which points towards suicide. She suffered from depression. Her personal life was in disarray. Friends expressed concern regarding her state of mind in the days prior to her death.

Killer Kennedys?

President John F Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy were political pragmatists, powerful risk takers, and often ruthlessly willing to flex their governmental muscle. Though they were philandering, intimidating and forceful at times, the leap from gritty behaviour to murder is unlikely, whatever may have been at stake.

Witnesses imply cover-up and recant

Some witnesses told their stories and then invariably changed their recollections. For example, Monroe's housekeeper, Eunice Murray, denied that Robert Kennedy was at Marilyn Monroe's home on the night she died and then later sobbed that he was in Brentwood. The revelation came while cameras and recording equipment were not working.

Tabloid journalism fuels fire

Journalistic sensationalism has fanned the flames of a Kennedy murder conspiracy in Marilyn Monroe's death for nearly 60 years. While there have been legitimate investigations, those wishing to capitalise on the tragedy for financial gain or notoriety have altered photographs and published unsubstantiated rumour for the consumption of an insatiable public.

© Everett Collection Historical / AF archive / White House Photo / INTERFOTO / Alamy Stock Photo / Getty images

Nevertheless, to this day conspiracy theories surround the events leading up to Monroe's death. Rumours that she was preparing to hold a press conference revealing the extent of her relationships with both Kennedys, and warnings from the FBI that she had written a book with an imminent release date disclosing details of her affair with the attorney general have fuelled such theories and begged the question of how far the Kennedy brothers were willing to go to protect themselves and their family. Monroe's telephone records for several days leading up to her death remain missing today.

Little conclusive evidence exists to support claims that the Kennedys were involved in a conspiracy to murder Monroe – or at least cover up any link to her death or details of their relationships that might be revealed. The most implausible scenario states matter-of-factly that Monroe was murdered by FBI agents on orders from the attorney general and/or the president, and that Doctor Greenson was complicit in the act.

Still, Monroe's residence had been bugged, and witnesses have described hearing a disturbing tape recording with clearly audible voices that include a furious Robert Kennedy, Peter Lawford and Monroe screaming. Housekeeper Murray did not initially mention Kennedy. However, during a 1983 BBC interview, she sobbed: "Oh why do I have to keep covering this up… Well of course Bobby Kennedy was there, and of course there was an affair with Bobby Kennedy." Apparently, cameras and recording devices were not rolling when the admission was made, and it cannot be corroborated.

The whereabouts of Robert Kennedy on the day before Monroe's death have been questioned. Kennedy's presence with family and friends at a ranch in Gilroy, California, on Saturday 4 August has been documented. Conflicting accounts place the attorney general at Monroe's home in Los Angeles, several hours away, on the same day. He was also supposedly seen at church services in Gilroy the following morning, making it virtually impossible for him to have travelled several hours to visit Monroe on 4 August.

Subsequent official reviews and inquests upheld the conclusion that Monroe's death was a probable suicide and there was insufficient evidence of foul play to re-open an investigation.

The key players in the strange Kennedy-Monroe affairs, or non-affairs, each died tragically, victims of assassins and likely suicide. Although there is ample support for a romantic encounter between the actress and the president, a lingering relationship is doubtful. Monroe's romantic link to the attorney general is even more tenuous. Nevertheless, the idea is sensational and titillating, and therefore never likely to be completely at rest.

President Kennedy and his wife pause for photographers at the White House in 1961. Was Jacqueline aware of her husband's possible romance with Marilyn Monroe?

Doctor Ralph Greenson, Marilyn Monroe's psychiatrist, stands with mourners at her funeral on 8 August 1962. Greenson broke into Monroe's bedroom and found her body

The incident at Chappaquiddick ruined Kennedy's chances at running for president

THE CHAPPAQUIDDICK INCIDENT

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON THE SHORES OF CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND ON A PITCH-BLACK SUMMER NIGHT?

The Kennedy family is clearly steeped in myth, romance and scandal. Some say they are cursed, others that they are the authors of their own misfortune, but none would argue that the history of this iconic American dynasty has been anything other than rich in drama. At the height of their fame, the four brothers of the Kennedy clan were a byword for power and influence, glamour and prestige, yet only one would survive into the modern era.

With one son, Joseph Jr, killed in World War II, and two more, Robert and John, famously falling victims to assassins' bullets, only one remained to carry the shattered dreams of the family that had once seemed as though it might rule the world.

As the youngest Kennedy brother, Edward's political career was glittering. He was lauded as the last hope of a nation, and it looked as though he might follow his late brother into the highest of offices. A senior figure in the Senate, all the signs pointed to Ted becoming the Democratic candidate in the 1972 presidential election. Victory appeared to be within his grasp, and Ted - self-assured, confident and respected - was ready to rise to the challenge.

And then, in one night that left a woman dead and a host of unanswered questions hanging over the senator's head, it all went horribly wrong. As dawn broke on 19 July 1969 and the sun rose over Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts, a new scandal was about to engulf the famed dynasty.

On 18 July 1969, Ted Kennedy played host at a party on Chappaquiddick Island to say thank you to six women who had played an integral part in Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign. Among those women were Mary Jo Kopechne, who was just 28 years old. Nobody saw Kopechne leave the party nor whom she might have been accompanied by, but as events would later reveal, she left with Senator Edward Kennedy.

The next time anyone saw Mary Jo Kopechne, she was dead. The grim discovery of her body came the following morning when fishermen noticed a car submerged beneath the waters of Poucha Pond and contacted local police. When the car was winched clear, it was found to contain Kopechne's body in the backseat, and swift checks soon revealed that the missing driver of that car was none other than Kennedy, who was nowhere to be found.

Shortly after the discovery, Kennedy walked in to the police station in nearby Edgartown and asked to make a statement that would, police hoped, help them to solve the chain of events that had led to the young woman's death. With no eye witnesses beyond a deputy sheriff who had seen the car heading towards the bridge on the previous evening, and just one occupant of the car still alive, Kennedy was the only man who could tell the tale.

It was, the senator explained, all caused by a wrong turn. He had left the party just after 11pm, he told police, and Kopechne had asked for a ride back to her hotel, as she was ready to leave. Kennedy elected to take the wheel of his Oldsmobile and let his chauffeur take a night off while he, ever the knight in shining armour, saw Kopechne safely back to town. Kennedy intended to take the ferry to the mainland but took a wrong turn and, instead of the ferry landing, headed for Dike Bridge. That bridge was old, ill-signed and had no rail to prevent cars from crashing into the pitch-black waters. Driving the wide and difficult-to-manoeuvre car on unfamiliar and unlit roads, Kennedy didn't even see the bridge in front of him until it was too late. As soon as he realised that he was about to hit the bridge at an angle that would send the car over the edge, Kennedy slammed on the brakes, but it was too late and the vehicle flipped onto its roof and sank into Poucha Pond.

Frantic, Kennedy swam free of the car but, despite calling for Kopechne, he could find no trace of her. Desperate to save her, Kennedy assured police that he had made repeated attempts to swim down to the wreck but simply wasn't strong enough. Instead, he dragged himself back to land and set off on foot for the cottage where Kopechne's friends were still partying.

Although Kennedy's walk took him past several homes, he claimed he was too shocked to notice them, and instead brought help back from the party to the scene of the accident. One of the men who accompanied him, Paul Markham, claimed that Kennedy was hysterical, and urged him to summon the authorities. Markham later testified that Kennedy sent them back to the party and set off to Edgartown to make the report, but he never made it. Instead, Kennedy admitted he swam 150 metres into town, went back to his hotel and went to bed.

Kennedy met Markham the following morning, accompanied by Joseph Gargan, a cousin of Kennedy who had helped the search party the night before. Both were shocked to learn that the accident had still not been reported, yet when Kennedy went back to Chappaquiddick Island and began to make calls, he still didn't contact the authorities. Instead, the politician was making the rounds of his friends and advisors, seeking advice on what his next step should be. Only when he heard that Kopechne's body had been found did he make a statement to the police, claiming he had not been thinking clearly when he went back to the hotel, and had been hoping it was a bad dream.

Kennedy pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident, and was handed a minimum term of two months, but the sentence was suspended. His next move was to give a statement that was intended to lay to rest rumours that he was romancing Kopechne, had been drinking, and had sought to escape detection by returning to his hotel. He asked the people to decide his fate: if they demanded his resignation, he would step down as senator for Massachusetts. They did not demand it, and he received a landslide of public support.

Tragically, John Farrar, who recovered Kopechne's body, told the inquest that she didn't drown at all, but lived for hours before suffocating. Had he been

WHO WAS MARY JO KOPECHNE?

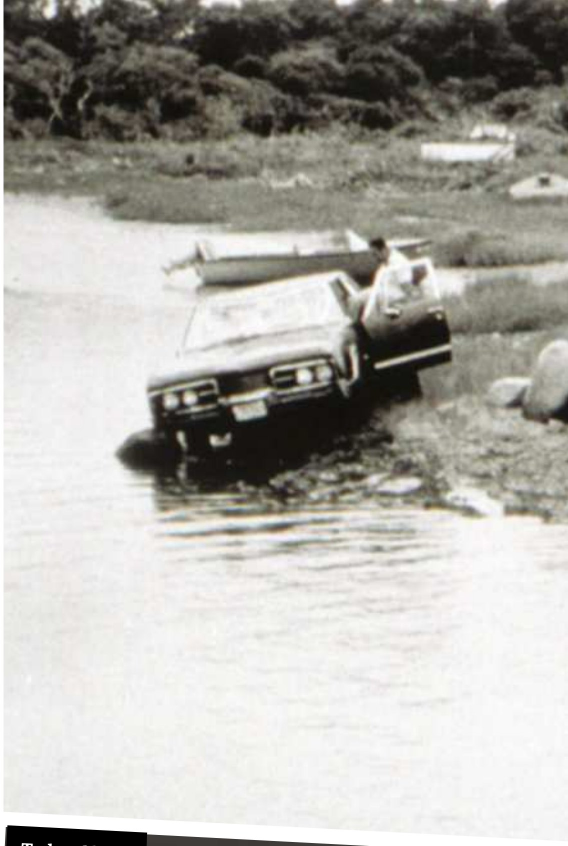
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE 'BOILER ROOM GIRL' WHO DIED THAT NIGHT?

Born in Pennsylvania on 26 July 1940, Mary Jo Kopechne was passionate about education, civil rights and politics. Intelligent, conscientious and highly dedicated, in 1963 she took a job in Washington as secretary to a senator. Just one year later, she had entered the sphere of the legendary Kennedy dynasty, working as secretary to one of Robert F Kennedy's speechwriters and one of his legal advisers.

Kopechne was exhilarated by life on the dynamic Kennedy staff, and was soon a valued member of the team. During Kennedy's presidential campaign, she became one of RFK's so-called 'Boiler Room Girls', a group of six women who worked in a tiny, airless office at campaign headquarters. They were the driving force of the campaign, crunching numbers and data on possible voting trends that would inform RFK's campaign. It was an exciting, pressurised and intense atmosphere, and Mary Jo Kopechne loved it.

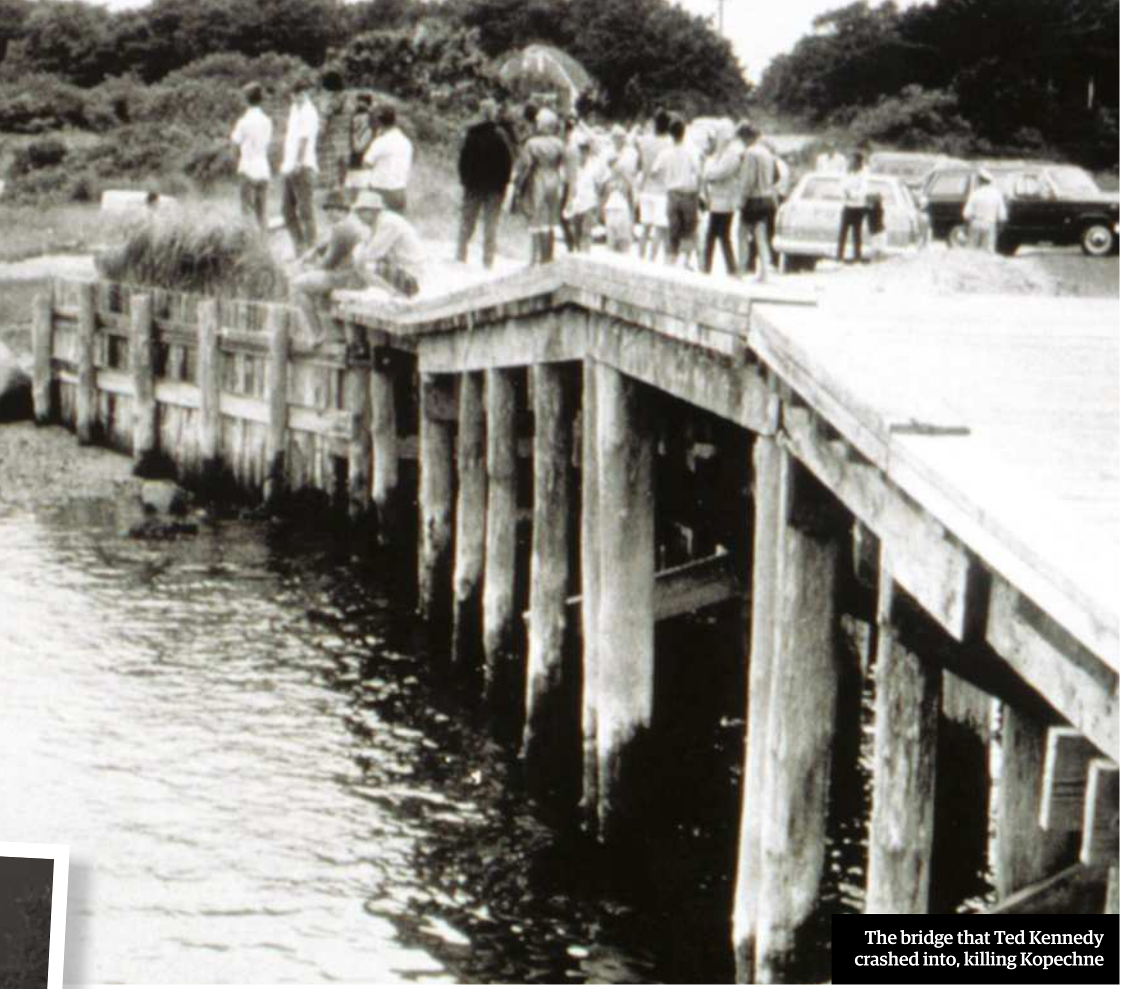
RFK's assassination on 5 June 1968 shook Kopechne to the core, leaving her devastated. She respected the senator enormously, and felt his loss on a deeply personal level. In fact, for a time following RFK's death, Kopechne felt unable to work in Washington again but, drawn to politics as her vocation, she couldn't stay away forever.

The party on Chappaquiddick Island on 18 July 1969 was intended as a reunion for the six Boiler Room Girls who had been so integral to RFK's campaign staff. It was not the first such reunion of the women but, tragically, it became their last.

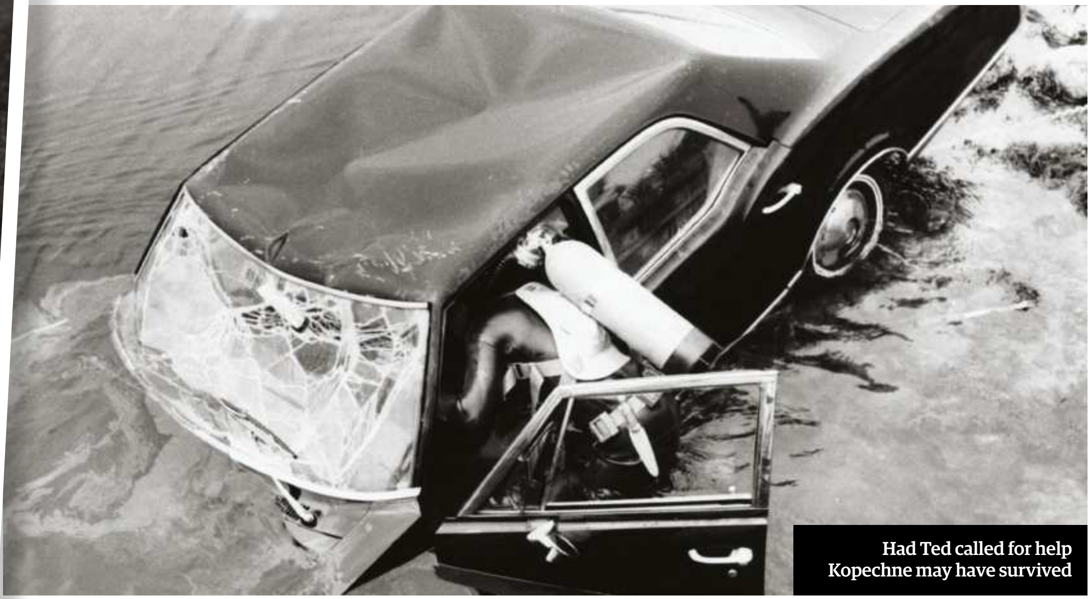


Ted and his wife going to Kopechne's funeral

"Kennedy assured police he made repeated attempts to swim down to the wreck"



The bridge that Ted Kennedy crashed into, killing Kopechne



Had Ted called for help Kopechne may have survived

called immediately, he concluded, Kopechne would have lived. There was an air bubble within the submerged vehicle, and Kopechne had forced her face into it, trapped within the car, hoping help would soon arrive. She was in the back seat, her posture suggesting that she had done all she could to keep breathing. Her hands still gripped the seat in death, her face desperately turned towards the air bubble that had kept her alive for what he concluded must have been three or four hours. Despite Farrar's disturbing testimony, Kopechne's death certificate recorded her cause of death as drowning, and subsequent investigations confirmed that this was the most likely explanation for her demise. A grand jury in 1970 decided that there was not enough evidence to pursue more serious charges and, though a fatal accident hearing that same year concluded that Kennedy's driving, as described in his own testimony, had at least contributed to the accident, they recommended no further charges of punishments. Instead, Kennedy's license was suspended for a total of six months.

The fallout for Kennedy was immense. His wife attributed her third miscarriage to the stress of the incident, while his hopes for the 1972 presidential election were crushed. He was seen as a man over whom a cloud of suspicion would always hang, and he ruled himself out of the race despite public support. In 1979, Kennedy finally mounted a campaign for the nomination, only to lose to Jimmy Carter. Though he remained in the Senate, he would never achieve the White House dream he and his family longed for, and his name was forever associated with the death of Mary Jo Kopechne.

Theories were put forward claiming Kennedy had handed his car over to Kopechne when he spotted the deputy sheriff, worried about being caught in a secluded spot with a young lady. Commentators speculated that she had driven alone and crashed into the water, explaining why Kennedy didn't make a report. Such theories are entirely speculative, of course, and cannot be proven. Whatever happened on that night at Chappaquiddick was known only to Kennedy and Kopechne and, with Kennedy's death in 2009, the last surviving witness took the truth to the grave.

TIMELINE OF THE ACCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF 18 JULY 1969 WHEN THE PAIR LEFT THE PARTY?

11pm	**Leaving the party**	Ted Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopechne leave the party at Lawrence Cottage on Chappaquiddick Island, and head for the mainland. Kennedy decides to drive, leaving his chauffeur at the party.
12.45am	**Spotted**	Deputy sheriff Christopher Lock sees a car stopped on Dike Road containing a male driver and female passenger. Upon seeing him, the driver speeds off. Lock notes some of the number plate. It is later found to match Kennedy's Oldsmobile.
1am	**The crash**	To avoid crashing into the poorly lit Dike Bridge, Ted slams on the brakes, and the car flips, ending up in Poucha Pond. Kennedy swims free but is unable to free Kopechne from the submerged vehicle.
1.30am	**Returning to the party**	Kennedy returns to Lawrence Cottage and tells his friends what has happened. Kopechne's friends aren't informed of the accident.
2am	**Returning to the scene**	Kennedy, Markham and Gargan return to the wreck but are unable to reach Kopechne.
2.30am	**Back at the hotel**	Kennedy returns to his hotel and goes to bed.
8am	**Seeking advice**	After meeting Markham and Gargan, Kennedy starts making phone calls seeking advice on how to proceed. He still doesn't report the accident.
8.20am	**Discovery**	Fishermen see the submerged car and contact the authorities.
8.45am	**Recovery**	Recovery begins. John Farrar finds Kopechne's body in the backseat of the submerged car.
10am	**Kennedy speaks**	Kennedy arrives at the police station in Edgartown and offers to make a statement via Markham as news of the accident begins to leak out.

© Alamy, Getty

WHO REALLY KILLED JFK?

WHY THE MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE SURROUNDING THE JFK ASSASSINATION SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING

At 12.30pm on 22 November 1963, the world stopped and gasped in horror. John F Kennedy, the man who many Americans saw as propelling their country into a new era of hope and freedom, was shot as his motorcade travelled through the streets of Dallas, Texas. There were three gunshots: the first missed, the second struck his throat, and the third hit his head. He was immediately rushed to the nearby Parkland Memorial Hospital and, as one news reporter said, "For 30 agonising minutes, Americans heard and waited and kept the death watch in unprecedented numbers." Despite the prayers of an entire nation, Kennedy was pronounced dead soon after.

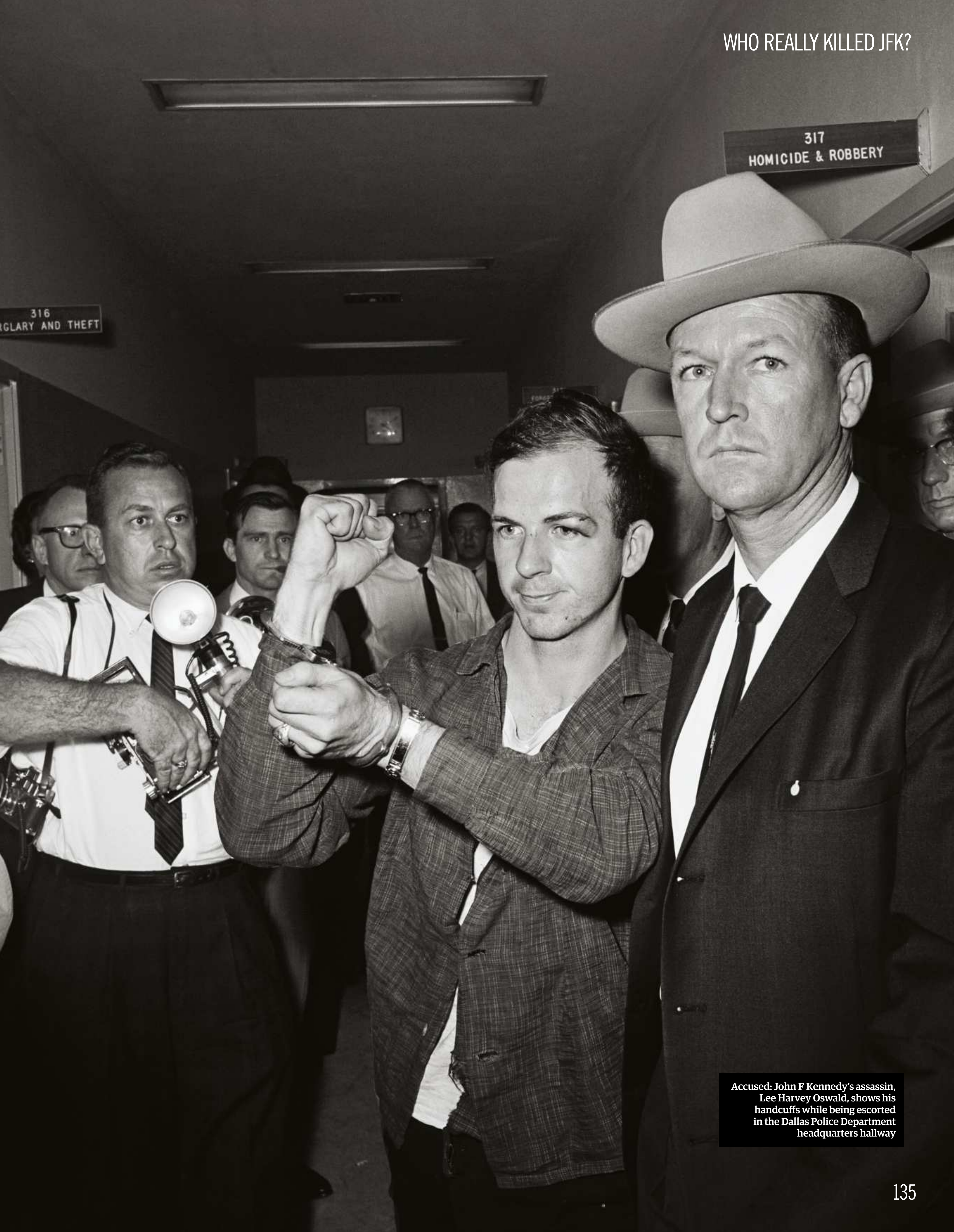
In the aftermath, Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B Johnson, commissioned an enquiry into the assassination in an attempt to discover the truth behind the circumstances surrounding Kennedy's death. The enquiry was rushed, its evidence - the Warren Report - questionable, and its findings inconclusive. There was general consensus that Lee Harvey Oswald, a psychopathic loner, was responsible for the shooting, but large elements of the American populace smelt a cover up. How did Oswald manage to shoot the president from such a steep angle? How did he reload his cumbersome bolt-action rifle in such a short amount of time to fatally shoot Kennedy? What about the reports of gunshots coming from the streets surrounding the president? These questions stem from one overarching theory: that there was a second gunman firing on the motorcade during the assassination.

Proponents of the second gunman theory claimed that there was no way Oswald could have acted alone as the Warren Report concluded. Doubts emerged after reenactments of the shooting found that the second bullet wounding Kennedy in his throat and that simultaneously struck the governor of Texas, John Connally, in the back, chest, right wrist and left thigh could not have achieved these injuries unless the bullet turned 90 degrees to the right to reach Connally's back. There had to be a second gunman somewhere in the crowd or within the nearby buildings to make the trajectory match up with the wounds sustained - unless the single bullet could magically turn 90 degrees in mid air. A possible location for the second shooter was the Grassy Knoll, where witnesses claimed they heard gunshots and saw smoke as the shots hit Kennedy. It offered a perfect sight line, good cover and an escape route across train lines leading away from Elm Street. Several witnesses who were standing between the Grassy Knoll and the motorcade claimed they were in the 'line of fire', with subsequent reports suggesting that a man may have been carrying a gun behind a fence near the Knoll's location. Three suspects, later identified as homeless men, were arrested by the Dallas Police as they were walking away from the Knoll, adding fuel to the raging fire of suspicion that there was another gunman within this area.

"Proponents of the second gunman theory claimed that there was no way Oswald could have acted alone"

The Zapruder film - silent colour footage of Kennedy's visit to Dallas shot by amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder - unintentionally captured the whole event, and was used as 'evidence' by proponents of the second gunman theory. If the Warren Report was to be believed, the bullet that hit Kennedy also struck Connally, instantly wounding both men. However, the timing of the bullet hitting Kennedy and than travelling through Kennedy's body onto Connally did not tally with what was on the Zapruder film. If the single bullet had hit both men then they would have both reacted on the same film frame at the same time. On the frame that captured the moment of the shooting, Kennedy reacts immediately to the second bullet hitting him, grasping his throat, but there is no response from Connally on the same frame. Connally reacts to the bullet hitting him several frames later, meaning that according to the theory there must have been another shot that hit Connally.

Autopsy reports of the president's head wounds also contradicted eyewitness statements on the scene. The autopsy stressed that the bullet entered the skull at an angle consistent with the position of Oswald's rifle in the Texas Book Depository, causing catastrophic damage to the brain. But eyewitness accounts said the president's head 'blew up', causing skull fragments and brain matter to fly up and scatter across the motorcade onto the road. If that was the case then the autopsy report had to be wrong, since a gunshot wound fired from a single rifle at the angle that Oswald was aiming at would not have impacted the president's skull in that way. There must have been someone else shooting who was closer to the motorcade to make the bullet wound cause the described injuries.

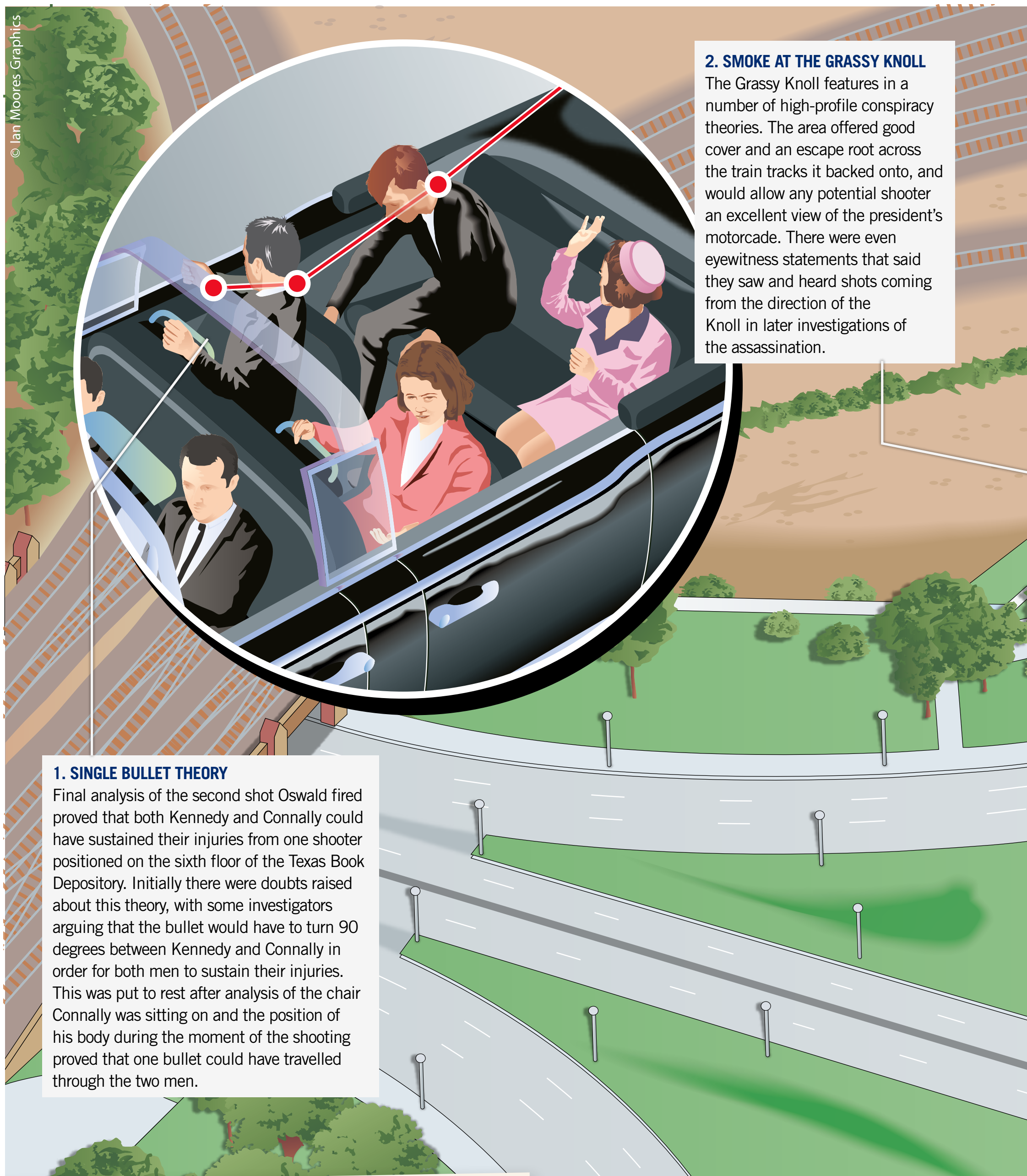

316
RGLARY AND THEFT
317
HOMICIDE & ROBBERY

Accused: John F Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, shows his handcuffs while being escorted in the Dallas Police Department headquarters hallway

The second gunman theory perhaps presents the single most enduring conspiracy of all time. There are parts of the theory that are compelling, and a House of Representatives committee meeting in 1979 concluded that the presence of a second gunman was a real possibility. However, the theory has significant problems, as it emphasises certain aspects of the evidence but ignores others. For example, there is a photograph that shows both Kennedy and Connally reacting to Oswald's second shot at the same time, completely debunking the evidence on the Zapruder film. Other films of the incident show people around the Grassy Knoll behaving normally when the suspected shots from that location were said to have been fired, even though the shockwave of the bullets would have caused a physical reaction. Further ballistic evidence and the position of the seat Connally was sitting on in Kennedy's limousine prove that the bullet could have maintained its trajectory, giving Kennedy and Connally their injuries. The head shot problem was also solved with test firing from the same model of rifle Oswald used, which proved that a shot from the nearby Texas Book Depository could have caused the witnessed head injuries.

Despite this and other evidence gathered later that supported the Warren Report's findings, the US in the Sixties was in no mood to listen to the establishment's explanations. How could a man who seemed larger than life, who led their country, be killed by a pathetic individual? The second gunman theory was plausible, and that was enough. If there was another shooter and he was working with Oswald, this meant that this wasn't the work of a deranged loner, but a coordinated attack on one of the most outspoken yet celebrated presidents in history. The conspiracy theories then shifted from the mystery of the second gunman to the shadowy organisations that were employing them.

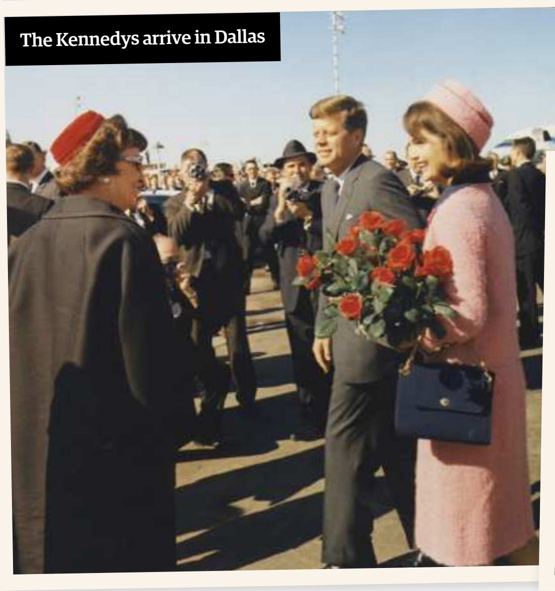
Immediate suspects were the common enemies of all good, freedom-loving Americans: the Communists and the Mafia. The Communist connection appeared the strongest, and Kennedy's provocation of the Soviet Union and Cuba, as well as the popular belief that Oswald himself was a Communist, focused the spotlight of suspicion onto a red plot to kill Kennedy. Oswald had lived in the Soviet Union in his younger years after he was discharged from the Marines. He had also become obsessed with Socialist literature and weaponry during his troubled and impoverished youth. On his return to the United States from Russia he became a supporter of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, and there were whisperings that he had met a Cuban spy in Mexico a few months before the shooting. This made it entirely plausible that the Cubans had paid or otherwise persuaded Oswald to kill the president. While the Mexico connection was disproved, Oswald's Communist leanings were widely publicised, as was his violent personality, obsession with rifles and skill as a Marine marksman.



© Ian Moores Graphics

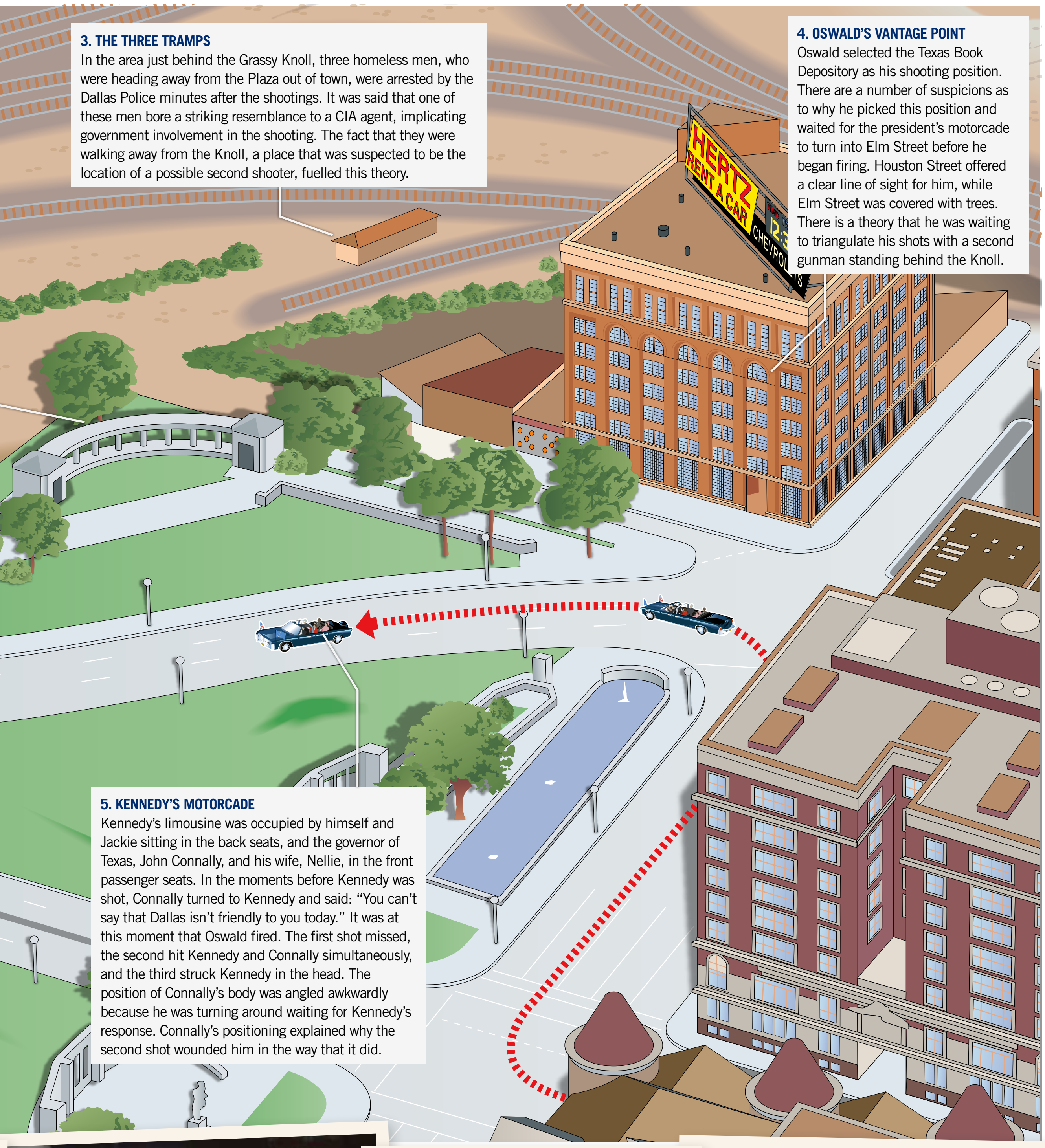
2. SMOKE AT THE GRASSY KNOLL
The Grassy Knoll features in a number of high-profile conspiracy theories. The area offered good cover and an escape root across the train tracks it backed onto, and would allow any potential shooter an excellent view of the president's motorcade. There were even eyewitness statements that said they saw and heard shots coming from the direction of the Knoll in later investigations of the assassination.

1. SINGLE BULLET THEORY
Final analysis of the second shot Oswald fired proved that both Kennedy and Connally could have sustained their injuries from one shooter positioned on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository. Initially there were doubts raised about this theory, with some investigators arguing that the bullet would have to turn 90 degrees between Kennedy and Connally in order for both men to sustain their injuries. This was put to rest after analysis of the chair Connally was sitting on and the position of his body during the moment of the shooting proved that one bullet could have travelled through the two men.



The Kennedys arrive in Dallas

The assassination of JFK

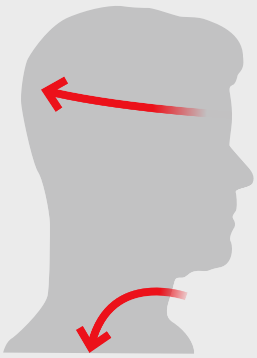


3. THE THREE TRAMPS
In the area just behind the Grassy Knoll, three homeless men, who were heading away from the Plaza out of town, were arrested by the Dallas Police minutes after the shootings. It was said that one of these men bore a striking resemblance to a CIA agent, implicating government involvement in the shooting. The fact that they were walking away from the Knoll, a place that was suspected to be the location of a possible second shooter, fuelled this theory.

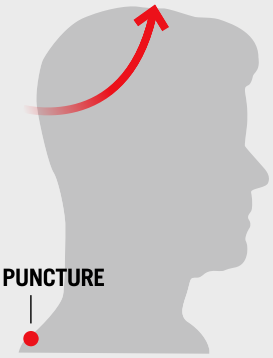
4. OSWALD'S VANTAGE POINT
Oswald selected the Texas Book Depository as his shooting position. There are a number of suspicions as to why he picked this position and waited for the president's motorcade to turn into Elm Street before he began firing. Houston Street offered a clear line of sight for him, while Elm Street was covered with trees. There is a theory that he was waiting to triangulate his shots with a second gunman standing behind the Knoll.

5. KENNEDY'S MOTORCADE
Kennedy's limousine was occupied by himself and Jackie sitting in the back seats, and the governor of Texas, John Connally, and his wife, Nellie, in the front passenger seats. In the moments before Kennedy was shot, Connally turned to Kennedy and said: "You can't say that Dallas isn't friendly to you today." It was at this moment that Oswald fired. The first shot missed, the second hit Kennedy and Connally simultaneously, and the third struck Kennedy in the head. The position of Connally's body was angled awkwardly because he was turning around waiting for Kennedy's response. Connally's positioning explained why the second shot wounded him in the way that it did.

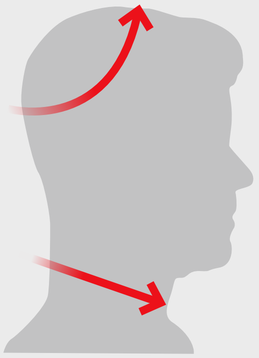
KENNEDY'S WOUNDS THEORIES



DALLAS DOCTORS
Claimed bullet's direction did not tally with Oswald's position



FBI VERSION
Reported he was shot twice, but these accounts were disputed



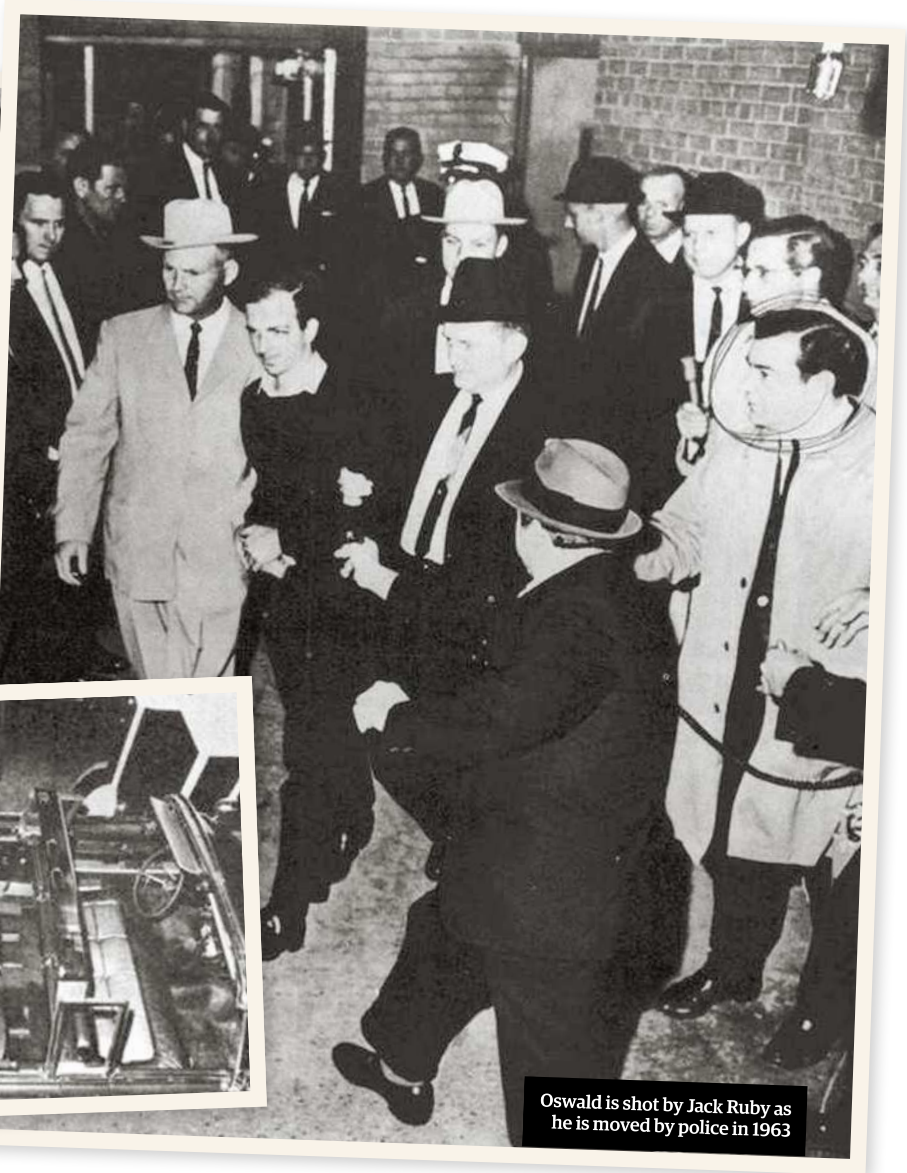
NAVY VIEW
Came closet to the now mostly accepted truth

Oswald protests his innocence

The arrest of the three 'tramps'

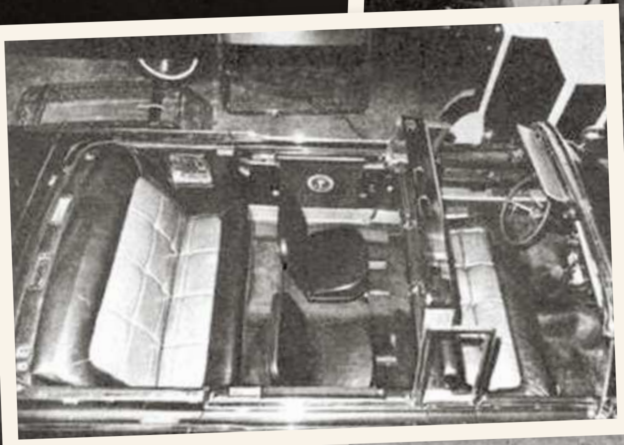
Members of the Warren Commission present their report on the assassination of JFK to President Johnson

Alen Specter of the Warren Commission reproducing the assumed alignment of the single bullet theory



Oswald is shot by Jack Ruby as he is moved by police in 1963

The view of the sniper to Elm Street



As the Communist theory swept through the country, the shooting of Oswald before he could be brought to trail by the known mobster Jack Ruby on 24 November 1963 stoked a new suspicion: the mob. The Kennedy family's connection with the mob entwined to form a dark web, and it included Joe Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, Patricia Kennedy and even Jack himself. All four of them had, at one point or another, been exposed to men and women connected to the Mafia, to the point where Joe allegedly struck a deal with the Chicago outfit to help Jack win the 1960 election.

Mafia kingpin Sam Giancana or one of his affiliates could have employed Oswald and the second gunman to kill Kennedy for trying to shut down the Mafia's control of trade unions and rackets that dominated American cities. They then may have employed Ruby to kill Oswald to prevent him from talking about the Mafia's involvement in the assassination. Or perhaps Ruby himself was the second shooter; he knew Oswald was going to talk after he was arrested, and shot him before he had a chance to make a confession. Of course, these theories rest on the assumption that the Mafia trusted Ruby and had enough confidence in him to be sure that he'd remain quiet about the Mafia's involvement when the inevitable police investigation unfolded. While Ruby was certainly connected to the Mafia, there's no evidence to suggest that he was a key figure within it, casting genuine doubt on whether mob bosses would have trusted him enough to get so deeply involved in the assassination of Kennedy.

The US was changing in the Sixties, and a large part of this was due to the war in Vietnam dragging on, killing thousands and spreading popular disaffection and protest against the government. Paranoia of the government's dark underbelly stemming from the deep betrayal the American people felt over Vietnam caused a toxic atmosphere of suspicion and animosity. It was during this period that the conspiracy theories changed. Instead of an external enemy or one that operated outside of the law, the enemy – reflecting the suspicious mood of the nation – became the government itself. Elements of the CIA and corporate America were implicated, and the popular belief that Kennedy was going to pull the troops out of Vietnam, or at least conduct the war with more sense and less firepower, fuelled the suspicion that the assassination was the result of one huge cover-up.

Circumstantial evidence implicating the CIA could be found with the arrest of three homeless men near the vicinity of the Grassy Knoll. One of them bore a striking resemblance to a CIA agent called Frank Sturgis, who was involved in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. Was it possible, through this rather shaky piece of pictorial evidence, that the second gunman was a CIA agent working in conjunction with Oswald to kill the president?

There were two popular theories as to why the CIA would kill its own president, the first being based purely on revenge. It was widely thought that the CIA had never forgiven Kennedy after he refused to support them at the Bay of Pigs, and they were now determined to take revenge on him. Talk of Cuban exiles, defeated at the Bay of Pigs, working with the CIA to form a splinter cell to kill Kennedy was mooted, as was the idea that Oswald was somehow linked to the CIA through his career in the Marines. There was, after all, a precedent for this: before the assassination the CIA was using Cuban exiles and other assassins to try to kill Castro. The second theory ran far deeper into the instruments of American power: it was said there were elements of the CIA who believed that Kennedy had gone soft on Communism, and was going to 'lose' Vietnam to the Communists in the same way that Harry Truman had lost China.

Along with these hardline CIA spooks were representatives from corporate America who stood to lose millions of dollars of potential weapon sales in the event of a military wind-down in Vietnam. It was thought that these two factions of American

SUSPECTS OF THE JFK CONSPIRACY

JACK RUBY

Jack Ruby was a Mafia affiliate who shot Lee Harvey Oswald before he could testify to the assassination of Kennedy in open court. It is possible that he was the second gunman, working in partnership with Oswald, or that Oswald was working with the Mafia and Ruby was sent to kill him before he had a chance to testify in court.

LYNDON B JOHNSON

It was known that Johnson wasn't in Kennedy's inner circle of advisors; he was constantly left out of the loop, and it was rumoured that Kennedy wanted to get rid of him for the run up to the next election. Theories postulate that he could have paid Oswald to do the deed to usher in his ascension to the presidency.

FRANK STURGIS

Frank Sturgis was a CIA spook who, according to witnesses and newspapers reports, was in Dallas Plaza at the time of the shooting. This was based on the picture shown, with Sturgis on the left and a drifter who looked like him on the right. The drifter was picked up by police with two other tramps. If it was Sturgis it lends weight to CIA involvement.

GUILLERMO NOVO

A Cuban exile who was embittered towards Kennedy for the failure of the Bay of Pigs operation to get Castro out of Cuba. He had the weapon skills to carry out the shooting – he was arrested for firing a bazooka at the UN building in New York in 1964 while Che Guevara was addressing the UN assembly.

FIDEL CASTRO

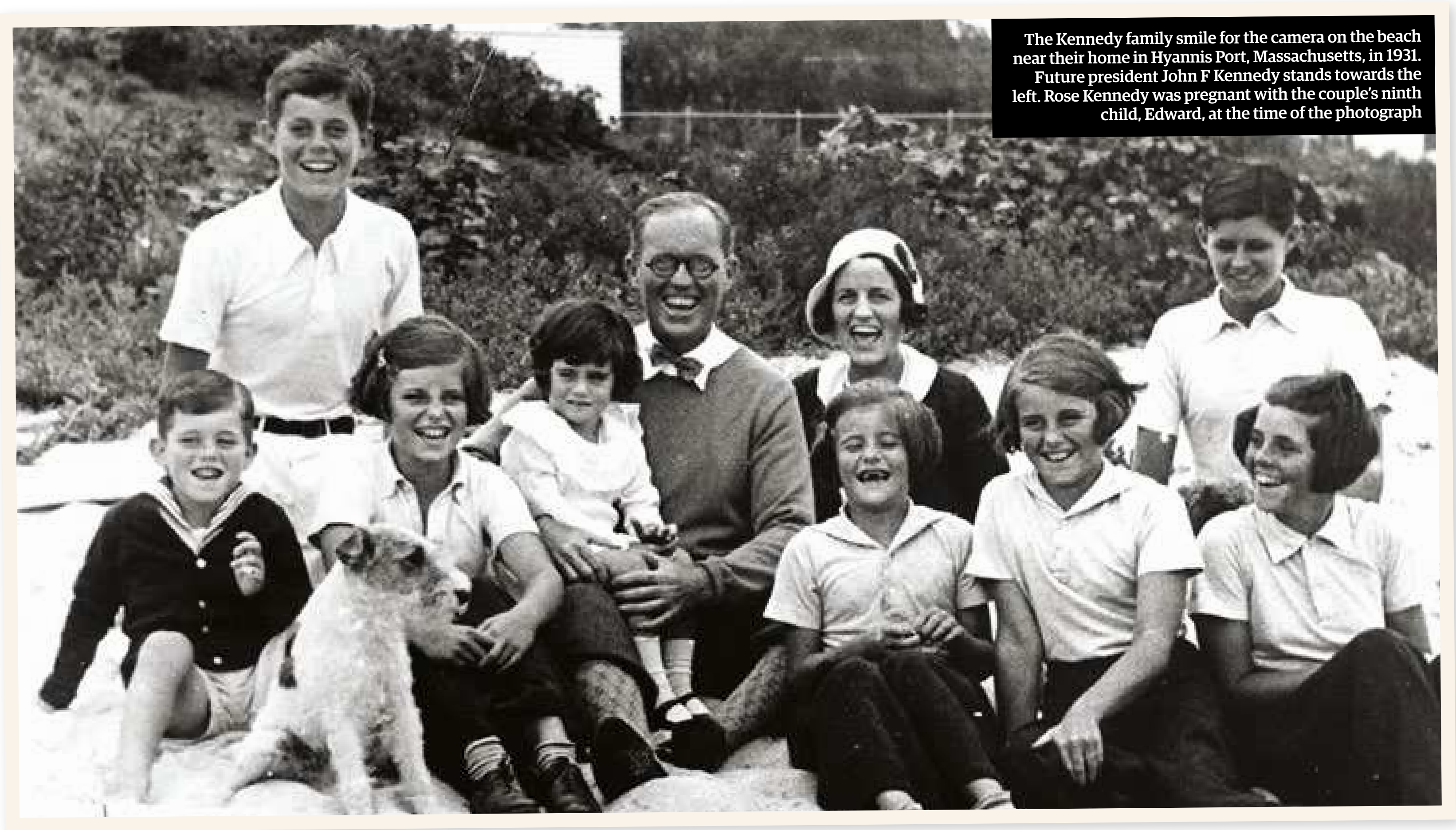
Fidel Castro had plenty of reasons to want to kill Kennedy, as his victory during the Cuban Missile Crisis had kept Cuba open to American attack. Kennedy's brother had also been trying to kill him for two years. It's conceivable that Castro hired Oswald, who was said to have had communist leanings, to kill the president.

political and corporate power conspired together to form a dark plot. They employed a witless nobody, Oswald, to kill the president and force the US into a war that cost thousands of American lives and millions in US tax dollars. It would line the pockets of fat-cat CEOs and appease the hawks in the CIA. These two theories were radical, deeply disturbing and would endure. Moreover, they could never be disproved, since any attempts to do so would be harshly rebuked with sentiments along the lines of 'that's what they want us to think'. It's unlikely that the American government and their affiliates could have pulled off such a spectacular cover-up and kept it a secret for so long without someone leaking indisputable evidence that the government was involved. Of course, this could be exactly what they wanted everyone to think.

It is unlikely that we will ever know the full story of the moments leading up to the assassination. There is plenty of uncorroborated evidence that points to a cover-up, and a recent poll by *Time* magazine showed that 70 per cent of Americans believe that Kennedy's death was part of a wider cover-up. However, it is likely that the correct explanation is the simplest: Oswald was acting alone. It is perhaps a testament to his character that after all this time, so many people still feel that official explanations of his death do not measure up to the memory of this man. Many believed he was going to lead the US to a new dawn, and continue to search for explanations as to why his life was so brutally cut short.

> "It is unlikely that we will ever know the full story of the moments leading up to the assassination of John F Kennedy"

Lyndon B Johnson taking the oath of office on Air Force One at Love Field Airport two hours and eight minutes after the assassination



The Kennedy family smile for the camera on the beach near their home in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, in 1931. Future president John F Kennedy stands towards the left. Rose Kennedy was pregnant with the couple's ninth child, Edward, at the time of the photograph

THE KENNEDY FAMILY'S LASTING LEGACY

THE FOREMOST AMERICAN POLITICAL FAMILY, THE KENNEDYS, DEFINES PUBLIC SERVICE AND ALTRUISM WHILE THE WORLD HAS SHARED ITS TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES

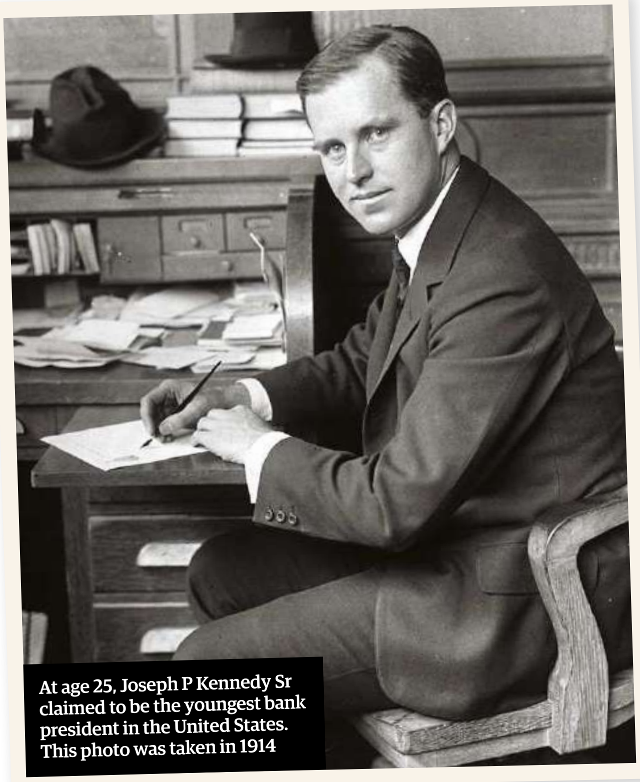
Like no other, the Kennedy family has left an indelible imprint on the American psyche and influenced the course of world events in the 20th century. Theirs is an American saga of service and sacrifice, magnificent achievement and unspeakable sorrow. Theirs is a legacy of celebrity, scandal, glamour and stirring leadership, which has yet to be fully assessed through the lens of history. If written as fiction, the Kennedy tale would be no less fantastic. As real life, it captivates us.

John F Kennedy's ascendance to the presidency in 1960 was the culmination of his father's quest for political prominence. An Irish Catholic - and a Kennedy - had claimed the White House. The victory was validation for the descendants of immigrants who had struggled to fit in to the fabric of society. Joseph P Kennedy Sr had raised his children as competitors, driven to succeed. When his own political aspirations came to an end in the early days of World War II, he pursued the prize relentlessly through his offspring, instilling in them an unstoppable will to win, whatever the endeavour.

President Kennedy remembered that his father "held up standards for us, and he was very tough when we failed to meet those standards. The toughness was important."

When Joseph P Kennedy Sr married Rose Fitzgerald on 7 October 1914, both were prominent Bostonians. His father, Patrick Joseph Kennedy, had served as 'boss' of East Boston's Ward 2 for 30 years, and held seats in the Massachusetts Senate and House. Rose was the daughter of John F 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald, a popular mayor of the city. Their union produced nine children: Joseph Jr, John, Rosemary, Kathleen, Eunice, Patricia, Robert, Jean and Edward, whose lives became inextricably interwoven with the story of the nation. The Kennedy family was close-knit and clannish in nature.

John, familiarly known as Jack, overcame physical infirmity, became a hero during World War II, married the glamorous Jacqueline Bouvier, and achieved tremendous political success. Brother Bobby was also a successful politician, champion of civil rights, and advocate for social justice. Eunice founded Camp Shriver, forerunner of the Special Olympics, and devoted her life to the welfare of the mentally and physically challenged. She received the Presidential Medal of



At age 25, Joseph P Kennedy Sr claimed to be the youngest bank president in the United States. This photo was taken in 1914

Freedom from Ronald Reagan in 1984. Jean served as US ambassador to Ireland, and Patricia devoted resources to the National Center for the Literary Arts and the National Center on Addiction.

The youngest child, Edward 'Ted' Kennedy, served nearly half a century in the US Senate from Massachusetts. He advanced the family's sweeping social agenda, forcefully advocating equal access to healthcare and economic opportunity for all Americans. Although his bid for the Democratic Party's 1980 presidential nomination failed, he became the 'Liberal Lion' in the Senate and died of brain cancer at the age of 77 in 2009. His passing was noted with bipartisan condolences.

> "The Kennedy family has never been without controversy"

When John F Kennedy won the presidency, he brought youth and vigour to the office. The first president born in the 20th century, his personal charisma and charm were infectious. A broad smile and easy manner, coupled with the inspiration, hope and strength embodied in his inaugural remarks ("And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country") resonated at home. A call to participate in shaping a better human existence followed: "My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

Meanwhile, Jacqueline brought grace, beauty and style to the White House, setting trends in fashion, serving as an ambassador of goodwill, and holding a shattered nation together during one of its darkest hours. Her persona continues to cast its long, elegant shadow across the years. The First Lady transformed the public image of the Kennedys into that of Camelot. However, as the story and popular song relate, it was a "fleeting wisp of glory." The moment was indeed shining, but tragically brief.

For all that their public image did convey, the Kennedy family has never been without controversy, at once idolised and vilified. The Kennedy men were notorious womanisers, risking status and statesmanship in the pursuit of sexual conquests. Bare-knuckle politicians, they were masters in the art of the deal, furiously

THE KENNEDY FORTUNE

ANOTHER ENDURING ASPECT OF THE KENNEDY LEGACY IS THE FAMILY'S FANTASTIC WEALTH

Ever the shrewd businessman, Joe Kennedy Sr parlayed motive and opportunity into an immense fortune during his lifetime. In turn, wealth opened doors – socially and politically – that might otherwise have remained closed, altering the course of history.

Successful in banking, Kennedy invested in the stock market and exited with significant profit prior to the crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression. He financed films and reorganised several Hollywood studios, bought real estate, and imported liquor, some of it probably smuggled into the US illegally during the Prohibition era, maintaining exclusive distribution rights to Gordon's Gin and Dewar's Scotch.

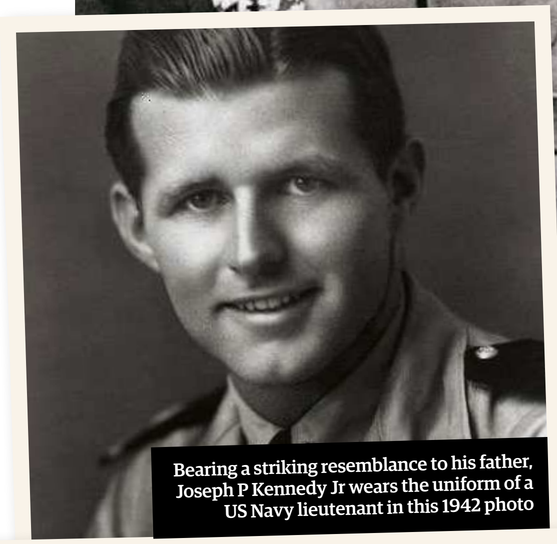
One of his most profitable ventures was the 1945 purchase of the famous Merchandise Mart in Chicago, two blocks long, 25 stories high, and once the world's largest building, for $12.5 million. The family owned the Mart and other properties, including Chicago's one million square-foot Apparel Center, into the 1990s, when they were sold for a combined total of $625 million. In 1957, *Fortune* magazine published its first list of the richest people in the United States. Kennedy was ranked in the $200-$400 million category, roughly equivalent to $1.74-$3.49 billion today.

When Senator Ted Kennedy passed away in 2009, his fortune alone was estimated as high as $157 million.

Much of the Kennedy wealth has endowed foundations and charitable causes through the years. Robert Kennedy often reminded his children of how fortunate they were, quoting the *Bible* verse Luke 12: 48: "To whom much is given, much is expected."

In 1938, three years before the lobotomy that further crippled her, Rosemary Kennedy smiles while being presented at court in England during her father's ambassadorship

Lord Hartington and Kathleen 'Kick' Kennedy beam on their wedding day. He was killed during World War II; she died in a plane crash in 1948



Bearing a striking resemblance to his father, Joseph P Kennedy Jr wears the uniform of a US Navy lieutenant in this 1942 photo

Moments after the fatal shot was fired, Robert F Kennedy lies on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, 5 June 1968

working backroom connections to deliver blocks of votes that ensured victories.

On 18 July 1969, the word 'Chappaquiddick' took on a new, scandalous meaning. Ted's political career was nearly wrecked when he lost control of his vehicle, taking the life of young Mary Jo Kopechne. Ted did not report the incident until the next morning, denied driving under the influence, was convicted of leaving the scene, and given a two-month suspended sentence.

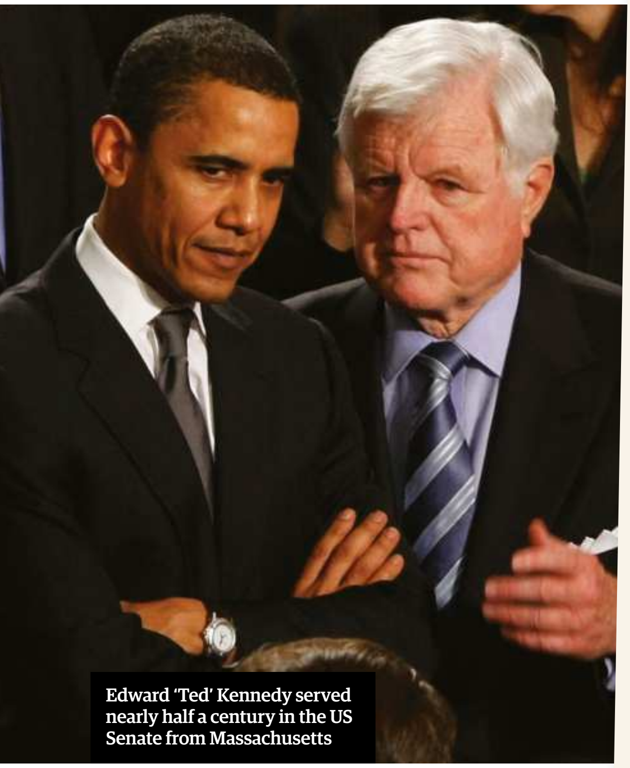
Chappaquiddick haunted Ted for the rest of his life. He narrowly escaped death in a plane crash in 1964, and suffered along with his son, Teddy, during treatment for cancer in 1973, resulting in the boy's loss of a leg. In the 1980s, a much-publicised divorce from wife Joan was followed with a drinking binge in Palm Beach, Florida, with son Patrick and nephew William Kennedy Smith. The men returned home with some women, and one of the guests accused Smith of rape. He was tried and acquitted, but the senator went on to apologise for the debauchery in a speech at Harvard.

Sometimes seen as self-serving, often viewed for better or worse as 'American royalty', and tireless in their quest for social change while burnishing their own public status, the Kennedys have shown the world some of the finest and some of the most dishonourable human traits. After all, they were and are intensely human.

The Kennedy drive to succeed, and commitment to public service – at least in part vicariously fulfilling the ambitions of the patriarch – has come with a heavy price. While some observers may conclude that the misfortune of the family is the Biblical 'sin of the father' being visited upon his children, others assert that Kennedy misfortunes are simply part of living and assuming the risk profile that accompanies public life.

At an early age it was apparent that Rosemary suffered from mental disabilities. When Joseph P Kennedy Sr requested that surgeons perform a lobotomy on the 23-year-old girl in 1941, the resulting failure left her impaired for life. She was shunted away, institutionalised, and rarely even spoken of in family circles.

She wasn't the only casualty of Joseph P Kennedy Senior's will. He had pinned the family's political future on young Joe, who left Harvard with the outbreak of World War II, joined the US Navy becoming an aviator, and was challenged to live up to Jack's wartime exploits in the Pacific. Joe



Edward 'Ted' Kennedy served nearly half a century in the US Senate from Massachusetts

Dressed in their Sunday best, the First Family greets the media while preparing to attend Mass on Easter 1963, in Palm Springs, Florida

volunteered for a risky mission and was killed in the explosion of the bomber he was flying on 12 August 1944.

A month after Joe died, Lord Hartington, Kathleen's husband and an officer in the Coldstream Guards, was killed in action in Belgium. Then tragically, 28-year-old Kathleen died in a plane crash on 13 May 1948. Rose refused to attend her daughter's funeral, and her father was the only family member in attendance.

President and Mrs Kennedy, and their children, Caroline and John Jr, offered idyllic images of a young family. However, they lost two children in infancy, a stillborn daughter and a son, Patrick, who lived only two days in August 1963.

Nearly four months later, on that dreadful day in Dallas, an assassin took the life of the 35th president of the United States. The death of John F Kennedy, the personification of optimism and hope, shook the nation to its core. Bobby Kennedy subsequently resigned his post as attorney general and embarked on his own presidential run in 1968. Campaigning on a platform of racial equality and the notable civil rights successes that he had helped to achieve, Bobby opposed the Vietnam War and rode a wave of popularity to victory in the California primary.

Moments after delivering his victory speech at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, as he walked through the hotel kitchen to get to the press room, Bobby was fatally shot. He died 26 hours later at the age of 43 on 6 June 1968. With his tragic, violent death, the world wondered just how much pain and profound loss could one family – prominent or common – endure.

> "The world wondered just how much pain and profound loss could one family – prominent or common – endure"

Another generation of the Kennedy family has also suffered. In 1984, Bobby's son, David, one of several family members who have struggled with substance abuse, died at 28 of an apparent drug overdose. In 1997, Bobby's son, Michael, revealed he had carried on an affair with the family's teenage former babysitter and died in a skiing accident. In 1999, John F Kennedy Jr was killed along with his wife, Carolyn, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, when the plane he was piloting crashed into the Atlantic Ocean.

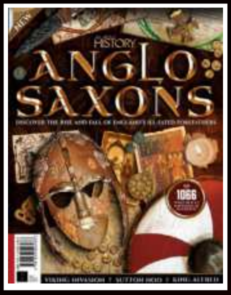
Still, the Kennedy progeny that remain have continued to heed the call to public service, holding elected and appointed political offices and working as authors, filmmakers, political activists, and administrators of several foundations that bear the family name.

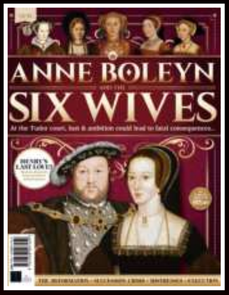
The Kennedy legacy is one of a glittering, hopeful and checkered past, along with the promise of a future that upholds the best and brightest of its own aspirations for a better world. Its story is still unfolding.

© Getty images

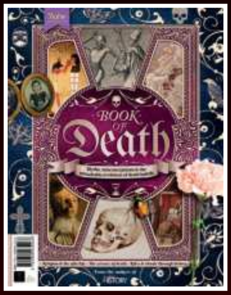
NEW
STORY OF THE
BATTLE of BRITAIN
THE ROYAL NAVY
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW SIR MAX HASTINGS
BRITAIN'S BRAVE FOREIGN FIGHTERS
INSIDE THE LUFTWAFFE • THE COST OF DEFEAT

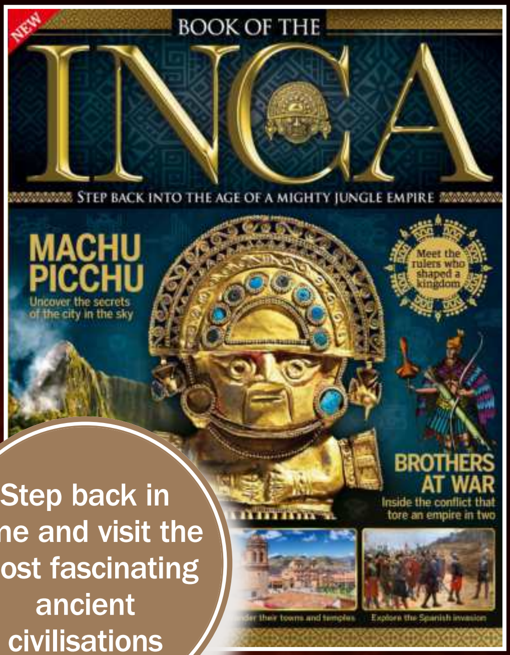
Examine world wars and epic battles through maps and rare documents


HISTORY
ANGLO SAXONS


ANNE BOLEYN AND THE SIX WIVES

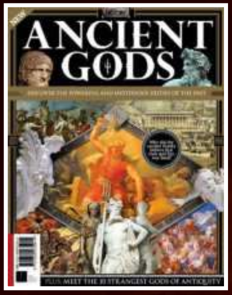
NEW
STALIN
HITLER VS STALIN


BOOK OF Death


NEW
BOOK OF THE
INCA
STEP BACK INTO THE AGE OF A MIGHTY JUNGLE EMPIRE
MACHU PICCHU
Uncover the secrets of the city in the sky
Meet the rulers who shaped a kingdom
BROTHERS AT WAR
Inside the conflict that tore an empire in two
Explore the Spanish invasion

Step back in time and visit the most fascinating ancient civilisations

NEW
HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES
UNANSWERED, UNSOLVED AND UNEXPLAINED


NEW
ANCIENT GODS

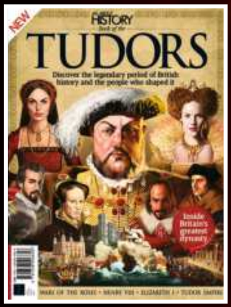
NEW
HEROES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

NEW
SALEM WITCH TRIALS

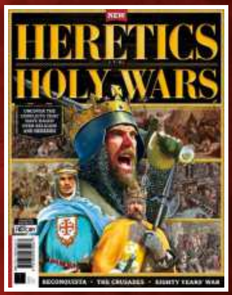
NEW
INSIDE THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR
BOOK OF THE
SAMURAI
THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE ICONIC JAPANESE FIGHTERS
RŌNIN: WANDERING SWORDSMEN

Explore iconic fighters, cultural traditions, top tactics and weapons

NEW
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
THE MIDDLE AGES
DARK AGES?
HORDES & HOARDS
AGE OF CHIVALRY


NEW
HISTORY
TUDORS

NEW
GEORGIANS


NEW
HERETICS AND HOLY WARS

✓ Get great savings when you buy direct from us

✓ 1000s of great titles, many not available anywhere else

✓ World-wide delivery and super-safe ordering

STEP BACK IN TIME WITH OUR HISTORY TITLES

Immerse yourself in a world of emperors, pioneers, conquerors and legends and discover the events that shaped humankind

Discover the truth behind history's most shameful chapters

Follow us on Instagram @futurebookazines

FUTURE

www.magazinesdirect.com

Magazines, back issues & bookazines.

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE UP TO 61%

Delivered direct to your door
or straight to your device

CLASSIC ROCK
HOW IT WORKS
ULTIMATE QUIZ SPECIAL
FourFourTwo
TOTAL FILM
ALL ABOUT HISTORY
EDGE
Feel Better
T3
UPGRADE YOUR HOME TECH
NEXT-GEN 8K TV
Digital Camera
SHOOT SHARPER SHOTS!
FREE! WITH THIS ISSUE

Choose from over 80 magazines and make great savings off the store price!

Binders, books and back issues also available

Simply visit www.magazinesdirect.com

✓ No hidden costs Shipping included in all prices We deliver to over 100 countries Secure online payment

FUTURE

magazinesdirect.com
Official Magazine Subscription Store

★★★★★★ BOOK OF THE ★★★★★★

KENNEDYS

THE TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES OF AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL DYNASTY

EARLY FAMILY LIFE

From their humble beginnings, discover how Joseph Sr and Rose raised the Kennedy clan

SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Explore the challenges that America's royal family overcame to dominate the world of politics

SECRETS AND SCANDALS

Delve deep into the personal lives and conspiracy theories relating to three generations of Kennedys

BOOKAZINE

9021
9000